Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-020
Wednesday
1 February 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-020 *1 February 1989*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Lebanon Committee Meets in Tunis 3
'Awn Meets With 'Arafat *[Beirut VOL]* 3
Further on 'Arafat Meeting *[Beirut VOL]* 3
Lebanon Meetings Extended *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Discusses U.S. Dialogue, Pan Am Bombing *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 30 Jan]* 3
Hamas Issues Statement No 35 on Uprising *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5
PLO, Israelis Attend The Hague Conference *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 6

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Agree on Presidential Summit *[Caracas TV]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Mali President Traore Arrives on 3-Day Visit *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Discusses Ties With Bendjedid *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Departs Following Talks *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak on Israel's 'Impediments' in Tabah Talks *[MENA]* 7
Israeli-Palestinian Committee Appeals for Talks *[MENA]* 8
State Department's Sofaer's Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 9
AL-SHA'B Denounces U.S. Stance on Aid Program *[17 Jan]* 9
Syrian Offer To Mediate With Iran Snubbed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 25-31 Jan]* 9
'Abd al-Majid on Arab Summit, Syria, Libya *[MENA]* 9
Mubarak Receives Moroccan Minister, King's Message *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Human Rights Group Calls For Hostages' Release *[AFP]* 10
Membership in Arab Shipping Company Restored *[INA]* 11
Paper Lauds 4-Country Economic Grouping *[MENA]* 11
AL-SHA'B Defends Student, Islamic Groups *[17 Jan]* 11

Mauritania

Senegalese Minister Arrives With Diouf Message *[AFP]* 12

Sudan

State Council Declares 'General Mobilization' *[MENA]* 12
State Council Relieves 7 Ministers of Posts *[MENA]* 12
Al-Mahdi on Darfur Events, Libyan Aid to Garang *[MENA]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Information Minister on New GCC Radio Station *[KUNA]* 14
Prime Minister To Pay Visit to Iraq 6 Feb *[KUNA]* 14

Oman

Somali Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 30 Jan *[WAKH]* 14
Gives Message to Sultan Qabus *[Muscat Radio]* 14
Diplomatic Ties Established With Mauritius *[Muscat Radio]* 14

PDRY

USSR's Petrovskiy Stops Over en Route to Moscow *[Aden Radio]* 14

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan Begins Visit *[SPA]* 15
Meets With Counterpart *[SPA]* 15

United Arab Emirates

First Gulf Air Flight From Abu Dhabi to Baghdad *[WAKH]* 15
Somali Official Conveys Message to Sharjah Ruler *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 15
Offers Amnesty for Secessionists *[WAKH]* 15
Turkish Chief of Staff Departs 31 Jan *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 16

IRAQ

Saddam Approves Formation of Military Committee *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Daily Terms Lebanon Pact 'Dangerous Phenomenon' *[INA]* 17
Press Statement on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani *[INA]* 17
Ends 4-Day Visit, Departs *[INA]* 18
Officers Put on Trial for Murdering Colleague *[AL-THAWRAH 24 Jan]* 18

ISRAEL

'Indirect Dialogue' Sought With PLO Leaders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Feb]* 19
'Secret Meeting' Planned *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Feb]* 19
Shamir: IDF Would Leave Cities Under Autonomy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Foreign Ministry Says Soviet 'Israeli Citizen' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Mubarak Urged To Intervene in Tabah 'Crisis' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Sofaer Proposals Approved *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
'Advanced' Missile Base Reported in Golan Heights *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 30 Jan]* 20
IDF Denies Amnesty International Accusations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Release of Nazi War Criminals Not Welcomed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Knesset Regrets Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
'Numerous Hardships' in Peres-Proposed Budget *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Rabin: Force 17 To Use New Name in Violence *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Rabin on IDF Goals *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Soldiers in IDF Reserves To Serve 45 Days in 1989 *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 21
Firebombs Thrown at Buses *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
15 Wounded in Gaza 31 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Firebombing in N. Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Harsh Sentences for Stonings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Further on 31 Jan Unrest *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Feb]* 22
130 Israeli Muslims Leave on Hajj to Mecca *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22

JORDAN

King on Economy, New Arab Group, Peace Talks *[AL-RA'Y 29 Jan]* 23
Prime Minister Comments on Talks in Cairo *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Jan]* 23
Returns From Egypt *[Amman Radio]* 24
Minister on 'Positive Effects' of Economic Policy *[PETRA-JNA]* 24
Cabinet To Set Up Higher Planning Commitee *[Amman Radio]* 25
JORDAN TIMES on 'Arafat, Bethlehem Mayor *[23 Jan]* 25

LEBANON

Syrian-Iranian Intelligence Form Hostages Group *[VOL]* 26
Amal-Hizballah 'Coordination Committee' Meets *[Beirut Radio]* 26
Officials React to Amal-Hizballah Agreement 26
Velayati Sees 'New Chapter' *[Beirut Radio]* 26
Nasrallah Notes 'Reservations' *[VOL]* 26
Sees 'Historic Opportunity' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 26
Al-Tufayli Urges 'Decisive' Stand *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 27
Hizballah 'Eager' for Restored Shi'ite Unity *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 27
Amal, Hizballah Clash in Southern Suburb 31 Jan *[VOL]* 28
Hizballah Radio Denies Clash *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 28
Resistance Attacks Lahd Militia, Opposition Forces 28
Battle at Tallat al-Shumariyah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 28
Attacks 'Zionist' Forces *[Voice of National Resistance]* 28
Attacks Against Lahd Continued *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Rockets Fired at Lahd Position *[VOM]* 29
January 16 Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post *[RFL]* 29
9 February Group Claims Attack *[RFL]* 29
Israeli Planes Conduct 'Reconnaissance Sorties' *[VOL]* 29
Fly Over South, Al-Shuf *[VOL]* 29

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Lebanese Developments *[Damascus Radio]* 30
AL-THAWRAH Cited on Amal-Hizballah Accord *[Damascus Radio]* 30
Commentary Urges 'Wait and See' Attitude With Bush *[Damascus Radio]* 30
Al-Shar' Receives Call From Spanish Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Al-Ahmar Receives Kurdish Party Official *[SANA]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Soviet Troop Withdrawal To Be Completed by 3 Feb *[Islamabad Radio]* 32
Soviet Commander Gromov Gives News Conference *[Kabul Radio]* 32
Confirms Salang Fighting *[AFP]* 32
USSR Gosplan Chairman Maslyukov Returns Home *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Iran's Velayati 'Overt Intervention' Criticized *[BAKHTAR]* 33
Armed Forces Combat Operations 30-31 Jan *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Mujahidin Detail 'Savage Soviet Bombings' *[AFP]* 34
Mujahidin Leaders Discuss Power Transfer Plans *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jan]* 34
Commentary Critcizes Rebels' Refusal To Negotiate *[Kabul Radio]* 35

India

France's Mitterrand Arrives in Delhi 1 Feb *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Meets With Venkataraman *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Foreign Secretary, Envoy to USSR Appointed *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Tibetan Exiles Warn PRC on Panchen Lama Heir *[AFP]* 36

Iran

Republic 'Ready' To Resume Ties With Saudi Arabia *[IRNA]* 37
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Unsure About Presidency *[IRNA]* 38
Gorbachev Calls Khomeyni Message 'Peaceful' Sign *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Fadlallah: Amal, Hizballah Unite Against Zionism *[IRNA]* 38
CSSR Prime Minister Adamec Continues Visit 38
Comments on 'Positive' Talks *[IRNA]* 39
Meets With Velayati *[IRNA]* 39
Adamec, Musavi Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Joint Communique Issued *[IRNA]* 40
KEYHAN Criticizes Iraqi Stance on Peace Talks *[IRNA]* 40
'Indifference' to CW Condemned *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Velayati Sends Message to Greece's Papoulias *[IRNA]* 41
Tehran Previews Velayati Trip to Islamabad 42
Majlis Terms RESALAT Budget Data 'Treason' *[IRNA]* 42
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Islamic Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Mines Minister Details Industrial Projects *[IRNA]* 43
473 Prisoners Pardoned on Revolution Anniversary *[IRNA]* 43

Pakistan

Security Tightened as 2 Die in Karachi Riots *[AFP]* 43
Curfew Imposed in Nazimabad *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Students Urged To Cooperate *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
'Mysterious' Afghan Plane Crashes in NWFP *[AFP]* 44

1 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0102141189 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Soviet Withdrawal/Security Situation—Soviet military commander Lieutenant General B.V. Gromov affirmed at a press conference in Kabul that Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan "within the time limits defined by the Geneva accords," TASS reported. He described recent operations against Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces along the Salang highway as "effective" and pointed out that the Afghan Army now controls the area south of Salang.

Similarly, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov disclosed at a press conference in Moscow that Afghan forces have carried out "massive aviation and artillery strikes" against rebel positions in Nangarhar Province to prevent Kabul from being cut off, TASS noted. More than 600 Afghan civilians were killed and 2,000 injured in recent bombing raids along the Salang highway by Soviet and Afghan aircraft, according to mujahidin sources cited by AFP. A Jamiat-e Eslami spokesman said the exact number of people killed could not be determined because certain areas were "completely destroyed" by the bombing.

Soviet-Afghan attacks on civilian areas have "severely intensified," Islamabad radio reported. Meanwhile, the Soviet withdrawal is "continuing on a large scale" and estimates are that "most of the withdrawal will be completed" by 3 February, the radio added.

A "mysterious" Afghan plane crashed in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province 31 January, according to AFP, citing the Pakistani press. The plane appeared to be a military aircraft loaded with arms and ammunition, and it circled Bannu Airport several times before crashing "with a large explosion," the report added.

Talks in Islamabad—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters in Islamabad that he hopes the Afghan mujahidin leaders will "forge complete cooperation" for a better future for Afghanistan, Islamabad radio reported. Velayati began talks with his Pakistani counterpart 1 February on bilateral relations and the Afghan problem, the radio noted

Lebanon

'Awn-'Arafat Meeting—Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis for talks on Lebanese and regional issues, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. 'Arafat declared that he is placing the Palestinian "rifle" at the disposal of Gen 'Awn, as the representative of the "legitimate" Lebanese authority, in any decision he may make to bring all of Lebanon's territory under the state's control. Gen 'Awn stated earlier that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is now essentially civilian and is no longer a problem, according to AFP. Palestinian civilians will be welcome in Lebanon until the overall Palestinian issue is resolved, he said.

On Palestinian military strength in Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the PLO has smuggled "sophisticated" surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles into the south with the help of local militias.

Hostages Issue—Syrian and Iranian intelligence services have formed a joint committee to draw up a plan to release foreign hostages, according to the Voice of Lebanon. A high-ranking Syrian envoy has left for Europe to meet with U.S. officials on the hostage issue, the radio added.

A Hizballah official cited by AFP stated that his organization will "no longer attack UN forces," even though it previously "endorsed" the kidnapping of U.S. Colonel Higgins.

Israel

Territories—A military court passed "unprecedentedly harsh" sentences on youths who threw stones at IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported. Six youths were given 18 months to 2 years in prison in addition to suspended sentences.

The IDF announced that 15 Palestinians were wounded by IDF gunfire during clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 31 January, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. Palestinian sources reported 27 casualties.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin informed IDF radio that the PLO's Force 17 has ordered its activists in the territories to continue acts of violence but to publicize their activity under a different name. Rabin also indicated that he has not changed his "phased plan" for the territories, telling Jerusalem radio that there would be no sense in setting an election date until enough "elements in the field" are prepared to accept the four-stage plan. He pointed out that the plan must be adopted by the government before it can be implemented.

Tabah Issue—The Inner Cabinet approved U.S. proposals for the renewal of the Tabah talks and is awaiting an Egyptian response, IDF radio reported 1 February. The proposals provide for Israel to announce the date of its withdrawal from Tabah in return for the resumption of talks on arrangements in the area.

In Egypt, President Husni Mubarak accused Israel of raising unnecessary "complications" over Tabah, asserting that he cannot understand why the Israelis are "suspending relations between the two countries for the sake of the Sonesta Hotel," MENA noted.

Missile Base—The UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD reported that the IDF has established a base for "advanced" long-range missiles in the Golan Heights, located some 3 km from the Syrian city of Al-Qunaytirah.

PLO Affairs

DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah discussed the PLO's internal differences in a recent interview with Moscow's IZVESTIYA, noting that he does not approve of Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to give most positions in the Palestinian provisional government to independent personalities. Hawatimah said the DFLP wants more representation for the resistance groups and for the "uprising" leadership. On U.S.-PLO dialogue, Hawatimah warned that U.S. requests for the PLO to "restructure" itself are part of an attempt to split the organization and are "unacceptable."

Sudan

The State Council relieved Islamic National Front leader Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi of his three ministerial posts, MENA reported. Six other ministers also lost their positions, and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has begun consultations to form a new coalition government.

The State Council also issued a "comprehensive plan" for general mobilization aimed at recapturing Nasir city, according to Omdurman radio. The statement declared that the recapture of Nasir is a "fundamental stage in the peace process" and the "essence of peace is national dignity."

Iran

A group of Majlis deputies described the publication by RESALAT of "secret" data on the upcoming budget as an act of "treason," IRNA reported. The deputies called on the Majlis speaker to take legal action against the newspaper.

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi arrived in Ankara 30 January for talks on combatting drug smuggling, border security matters, and consular issues, Tehran radio reported.

IRNA announced 1 February that 423 prisoners in five provincial cities have been pardoned on the anniversary of the 1979 revolution.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraq's acceptance of the establishment of a joint military committee with Iran was officially confirmed by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a letter to the UN secretary general reported by Baghdad radio. For Iran's part, Velayati welcomed Iraq's acceptance as a "positive step" but cautioned that "it is no use renewing the peace talks unless military forces withdraw to internationally recognized borders," IRNA reported. He called on the Security Council to "seriously deal with" the withdrawal as stipulated in Resolution 598.

GCC Radio Station

The "Voice of the GCC" will begin broadcasting for a 4-month period starting 1 February, the Kuwaiti information minister disclosed in a statement to KUNA. The new station will use facilities and reporters from Kuwait radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Lebanon Committee Meets in Tunis

'Awn Meets With 'Arafat

NC3101195889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis at 1800 Beirut time today. Attending the meeting were Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the Fatah number two leader, and Lebanese Ambassador to Tunis Sulayman Farah. After the meeting, 'Arafat declared that the Palestinian rifle in Lebanon was returned to Prime Minister 'Awn .

[Paris AFP in English at 1857 GMT on 31 January reports: "Gen 'Awn, who is in Tunis for meetings with an Arab League committee charged with resolving Lebanon's political crisis, said earlier Tuesday that the Palestinian presence in his country—now essentially civilian rather than military—was no longer a problem. Palestinian civilians would be welcome in Lebanon until the overall Palestinian question was resolved, he said."]

Further on 'Arafat Meeting

NC3101210989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The surprise meeting between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was a surprise development in Tunis tonight. 'Arafat informed 'Awn that he is returning the Palestinian rifle to him and placing it at his disposal. Our correspondent in Tunis Munir Najjar sent us the details in the following report about 30 minutes ago:

[Begin recording] A surprise development occurred today, which the Voice of Lebanon reported in an earlier dispatch from Tunis. This was the meeting between Prime Minister Gen 'Awn and Yasir 'Arafat. PLO leader 'Arafat, accompanied by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the Fatah number two, and PLO Ambassador in Tunis Hakim Bal'awi, visited Gen 'Awn at the home of Lebanese Ambassador in Tunis Sulayman Farah. During the 30-minute meeting, the conferees discussed Lebanese and regional issues.

'Arafat arrived in Tunis from Algiers, where he met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Before meeting with 'Awn, 'Arafat conferred with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. 'Arafat will meet with members of the six-man Arab committee and the Arab League's Chedli Klibi at a banquet he will host in their honor tonight.

Twenty years after the Cairo agreement was signed, placing the rifle in the hands of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon, 'Arafat declared during his meeting with Prime Minister 'Awn that he is returning this rifle to Gen 'Awn and putting it at his disposal, as the representative of the legitimate Lebanese authority, in any decision he may make to bring all of Lebanon's territory under the state's control. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lebanon Meetings Extended

JN0102100289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The Arab League good offices committee chaired by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, which is currently meeting in Tunis, has extended its meetings for another 24 hours in an attempt to convince the Lebanese parties of a plan that paves the way for the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

The Arab League good offices committee had prepared a six-point plan that specifically calls for the withdrawal of nongovernmental forces from Beirut, the deployment of Arab observers in the Lebanese capital, and the formation of a parliamentary committee that will be tasked with formulating a constitutional reforms program on the basis of which the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will meet to elect a new president of the Republic.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Discusses U.S. Dialogue, Pan Am Bombing

JN3101201389 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 30 Jan 89 p 11

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the PNC Political Committee, by an unidentified AL-SIYASAH correspondent in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [AL-SIYASAH] Viewing the Soviet Union—if it is important in holding the international conference for the PLO to have a strong ally, are you not concerned about developments in Israeli-Soviet relations?

[Sha'th] The Soviets say that they are developing their relationship with Israel for one reason: to open the possibility of dialogue with Israel and put pressure on them. They say that without relations with Israel they will not be able to attend the international conference. This is what they say. We believe that they have the interests of the Palestinians in mind. Of course, we cannot dictate the movement of a superpower such as the USSR. However, we have full confidence that they want to work toward establishing a Palestinian state and a just, permanent peace.

[AL-SIYASAH] Why did efforts to reconcile or bring the Syrians and Palestinians closer stop?

[Sha'th] They did not stop. Dialogue continues to bring about better relations. Despite all that the PLO has suffered from Syrian behavior, contacts have not ceased.

[AL-SIYASAH] About the Palestinian-U.S. aspect—do you not believe that this dialogue is still not up to the required standard, taking into consideration U.S. conditions restricting the level, issues, and aim of the dialogue itself?

[Sha'th] The United States now clearly admits that the PLO is the major Palestinian side in the conflict. This is enough for us. The dialogue itself, however, is still new. To date, only one full session has taken place.

The four sessions after that were individual meetings between the Palestinian and U.S. ambassadors in Tunis within the framework of continuing the channel of contact. Dialogue itself, however, took place only in the first session.

[AL-SIYASAH] Why have things started to take on a different character now concerning the latest meetings? Some have started talking about secret sessions, which can or cannot be confirmed.

[Sha'th] There are no such secret meetings at all. We declare all the messages our ambassador in Tunis delivers to the U.S. ambassador. There is nothing secret in them.

However, meetings are not dialogue. Dialogue on the subject, as they call it in the United States, was stopped after the first session. This is until the new U.S. team dealing with the Middle East starts to work. This might be in 1 month, and then we will meet once again.

[AL-SIYASAH] Could the Bush administration introduce new changes or limitations, or is it continuing the same policy the basic Palestinian expects?

[Sha'th] The United States is a realistic country. The longer the uprising continues and the wider Palestinian peace movements spread or gain supporters in the world, the more the United States is forced to change its line. It is not moving only ideologically, but also in thought. There is a reality dictating this thought, and they are highly affected by the changes in facts. Therefore, I expect Bush to differ from Reagan. Had Reagan continued under the new circumstances, he too would have changed. He was President from 1982 to 1986, when the Palestinians were suffering immensely. The Arabs were fragmented and disunited because of the Gulf and other wars. Therefore, there was no real Arab pressure on Reagan. The whole world submitted to U.S. policies. Reagan behaved in accordance with this situation. However, things have now changed, with Iraq emerging as the victor in its war, the trend of Arab disunity halting, Egypt's returning to the Arab scene, the Palestinian uprising, and the Palestinian peace offensive. Therefore, the circumstances have changed.

[AL-SIYASAH] With this change in reality, the Americans asked for a halt to the uprising. In the first dialogue session, there were indications of discussions on the meaning of terrorism once again. Where is the change here?

[Sha'th] There is much speculation on what happened at this session.

Away from all this, the Americans did not at all demand a halt to the uprising during this session. They did not consider it terrorism. The U.S. spokesman affirmed this recently, saying that the United States does not consider the uprising to be terrorism. We reject this nomenclature and will continue with the uprising.

[AL-SIYASAH] Could it actually happen, despite the clarity of the situation, that some other party would carry out terrorist acts?

[Sha'th] Of course this could happen. In fact, it has actually happened. No one held us responsible for that.

[AL-SIYASAH] The Pan American incident was of large dimensions that might seem incomprehensible. After the repetition of statements on U.S.-Palestinian cooperation, is there no final opinion on this?

[Sha'th] It might become clear finally that Israel carried out this operation. One of the messages the PLO sent the U.S. ambassador in Tunis said: Watch out. The Israeli Mosad carried out the Pan American operation.

[AL-SIYASAH] Therefore, the PLO offered specific information?

[Sha'th] Yes. That did happen. There are many pieces of evidence now indicating the possibility that what the PLO had offered was true.

[AL-SIYASAH] On the Arab level, how far did Egyptian-Palestinian coordination get in the present stage?

[Sha'th] At the present stage, and at every stage, Egypt is the most important country in the Middle East and Arab region. Especially now, Egypt is playing a large diplomatic and political role to exert pressure in all directions to render the Palestinian peace line successful.

[AL-SIYASAH] Israel is attempting once again to talk about Camp David. Is this clear to the Palestinian side?

[Sha'th] Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state put an end to any discussion about the Palestinian people with Camp David. It placed Egypt practically, actually, and symbolically in the frontline, supportive of the Palestine AL-SIYASAH.

[AL-SIYASAH] But, why has the issue of the Palestinian embassy in Cairo been delayed?

[Sha'th] This will happen soon, God willing. The issue is not really under discussion. It is subject to a decision by the PLO. On the day the PLO decides on its representative in Cairo, there will be an ambassador in an embassy. This is the true meaning of Egypt's full legal recognition of the independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Hamas Issues Statement No 35 on Uprising

JN3101130089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The following is Statement No 35, the second year of the uprising, issued by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Patience is the key to victory, and defeat is the fruit of retreat. Praise be to God and may peace and blessings be upon the example of good doers and the leader of the patient mujahidin, Muhammad and his followers, until doomsday.

Palestinian people, the cowardly occupier is stupefied. He barely believes that his army, which has carried out military adventures, now devotes its attention to stalking children and women. This army works around the clock to achieve the impossible dream of bringing calm to the [occupied] territories, while it has adopted unprecented measures to bury the uprising alive so as to replace it with a so-called peace that will allow the usurper to devote his attention to other affairs, which are among the priority objectives of the occupation.

The enemy wagers on the following to end the uprising, or to have it taper off:

1. The challenge to education: This is done by closing educational institutions to deprive the sons of our people from exercising their right to join their schools, institutes, and universities. Universities have been closed since the beginning of the uprising, and so have institutes of higher education, at the orders of the Nazi authorities. Schools suffer from recurrent closures. The policy of stultification that is brandished in our faces is as dangerous as the bullet, the bomb, and the barbed wire.

2. The economic challenge: Since the beginning of the occupation, a pernicious economic policy has been adopted. This policy bared its teeth on the threshold of 1988, the year of the martyrs, and is being pursued through the following: The devaluation of the Shekel and the decrease in the purchasing power of [the Jordanian] dinar; the increase in cost of most goods, particularly consumer goods; the imposition of restrictions on labor and workers; the collection of ridiculous taxes and fines; the forcible collection of funds under the pretext of replacing identity cards and license plates; the obstruction of crop harvesting, uprooting trees, and destroying and confiscating land; the demolition of houses; the ban imposed on the transfer of funds; and other ugly and terrorist economic measures.

3. The security challenge: The army roams every area, provoking the unarmed people; fires live bullets and all forms of bombs; removes citizens from their homes and families; storms houses, sowing terror in the hearts of children and women; arrests young men and brings them to trial before mock fascist courts; deprives them of their most basic rights; imposes curfews on camps, villages, and cities; places innocent citizens under house arrest; steals cars and robs shops in broad daylight; sets businesses on fire at night and implies that it was carried out by one of the Palestinian opposition parties to ignite a dispute among Palestinian ranks; and desecrates the sanctity of places of worship by storming mosques and damaging their contents.

4. The fomenting of sedition among the factions: This can be detected in their bulletins and poisoned reports.

The statement of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine continues: Our steadfast people: In view of these acts, your movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, calls for the following:

—Rejecting the authorities' policy of educational suppression by having academic curricula at mosques and organizing educational committees at all centers. We also call on parents to provide sufficient guidance and education.

—Owners of national companies and factories are called upon to absorb the largest possible number of workers and to reconsider workers' wages in view of the decline in the [Jordanian] dinar's price and price hikes.

—Landlords are called upon to reconsider real estate rents in sympathy with those with low or no income at all.

—Wealthy people and merchants are called upon to assist their needy brothers and consumers. Merchants are also called upon to rationalize profits.

—Exploiting agricultural areas around home farms and orchards to grow vegetables and necessary crops in order to save money.

—Rationalizing consumption, cutting expenditure, and leaving luxuries.

—Those in charge of charity committees are called upon to intensify their activities.

—Asserting the boycott of anything Zionist vis-a-vis national products.

—Fighting those who set fire to citizens' shops, rob them, or confiscate some of their contents. We stress that the authorities are behind all these disgraceful acts.

—Punishing burglars who become active at night, live by terrorizing people, threatening their lives and properties, and use guns to achieve their objectives. The people are entitled to make an example of anyone proved to be carrying out such activities.

—Let Thursday, 9 Febrary 1989, be a day of comprehensive strike at the start of the uprising's 3d month in its 2d year.

—Let Monday, 20 February 1989, be a day of comprehensive strike to protest the authorities' desecration of mosques, stealing their contents, and detaining those in charge of them.

To those calling for coordination with Hamas, since the beginning our hearts have been open for cooperation with all those working for the liberation of the whole of Palestine from the filth of occupiers. God is capable of letting this happen.

Let the uprising continue. God is great. Praise be to God.

[Signed] 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 30 January 1989, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Palestine

PLO, Israelis Attend The Hague Conference

JN3101212389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1924 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A conference opened at The Hague today in which a PLO delegation and a number of Israelis participated to search for ways of achieving peace in the Middle East. Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek told a press conference in The Hague yesterday that his country wants to exploit its contacts with the Palestinians and the Israelis to give momentum to the peace process in the region. He said that, on this basis, he will deliver a speech at the conference. Brother Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, and brother Bassam Abu Sharif, brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] adviser for press affairs, will participate in the conference for the Palestinian side. An Israeli delegation, including among others former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban and other representatives and correspondents, will also take part in the conference.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Agree on Presidential Summit

PA0102005389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0002 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The OPEC oil ministers' meeting in Caraballeda unanimously agreed today to hold a presidential summit, which was proposed by Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez as a way to reach a permanent agreement on OPEC prices and policies. The oil ministers' meeting in Caraballeda also agreed that at the regular OPEC meeting scheduled for March, they will decide on the strategy and guidelines to be followed at the summit.

Algeria

Mali President Traore Arrives on 3-Day Visit

LD2801135689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpts] At about 1030 today the presidential plane landed, carrying Mali President Moussa Traore at Houari Boumediene International Airport. President Moussa Traore of Mali and current OAU chairman arrived on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of President Chadli Benjedid.

The distinguished guest, who was coming from Beijing with a delegation, was welcomed by President Chadli Benjedid and Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee; speaker of the National People's Assembly Rabah Bitat; a number of government members; and members of the diplomatic corps and the Mali community in Algeria. [passage omitted]

In the VIP lounge President Moussa Traore made the following statement to newsmen:

[Begin Traore recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] I would like first of all to thank my brother and friend President Chadli Benjedid for the warm welcome which was accorded me—a welcome that truly expressed the friendship that exists between Mali and Algeria on the one hand and the people of Mali and Algeria on the other hand.

My visit today comes as part of this friendship and the bilateral relations. During the visit I will have talks with officials in Algeria concerning African and international issues particularly those affecting bilateral issues. I renew my thanks for the warm welcome. [end recording]

Discusses Ties With Bendjedid

LD2901160489 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] President Bendjedid had a meeting this morning with President Moussa Traore, who has been on an official visit to Algiers since yesterday, a visit which falls within the framework of the permanent consultations between the two heads of state on bilateral relations and African affairs. Bilateral cooperation is reaching an appreciable level in various areas. It can even be cited as an example of South-South cooperation. Algeria and Mali devoted particular attention to promotion of the border regions' development by setting up many agricultural projects for the economic and social reintegration of the victims of drought. To further strengthen cooperation in these areas specifically and to overcome the obstacles that disrupt their operation, the path of African unity has been constructed for this purpose. Today it symbolizes the two countries' willingness to realize the two fraternal countries' hopes.

The sphere of cooperation in the border regions has been extended to other sectors such as energy and mining. The two countries have thus agreed to connect Algerian natural gas to the homes on the Malian border and to press ahead with the exploitation of hydraulic resources and agricultural land. Joint efforts thus have not just been confined to the economic sphere. They have also included the fields of culture and information. An agreement has been reached for stepping up cooperation in the field of information by means of exchanging radio and television programs and making reports on the two countries' political, economic, and cultural life.

Departs Following Talks

LD3001174989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpts] General Moussa Traore, Malian president and current chairman of the OAU, left Algeria this morning folowing a 3-day official visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

President Moussa Traore made a statement at the airport VIP lounge to our colleague Rabih Haddad. [passage omitted]

[Haddad] Moussa Traore said: I was concerned in my talks yesterday with President Chadli Bendjedid with deepening these talks which sum up, strengthen, and help to develop bilateral relations, whether in the political or economic arenas. In the political arena, this cooperation is regarded as exemplary. Economically, we shall endeavor to draw up a program so that this cooperation can rise to the political level that has been achieved. On the international and continental levels, we discussed African and international questions and the prospects for proposals put forward at the OAU and the United Nations with the cooperation of these two international organizations.

Before leaving Algeria, he said, I would like to renew my thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid and to officials of the FLN and the government for the hospitality accorded me personally and the delegation accompanying me. This morning President Moussa Traore held talks with Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the republic. The talks took place at the Djenan Mithak residence.

Egypt

Mubarak on Israel's 'Impediments' in Tabah Talks

NC0102110189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak directly addressed the Israeli Government regarding Israel's impediments which aim to obstruct the Tabah talks.

In statements to journalists this morning, Mubarak said: I cannot understand what the Israeli Government wants. There is a court ruling, and yet they are suspending relations between the two countries for the sake of the Sonesta hotel. It is strange, and I cannot understand them. He stated: Do they not believe that, by complicating this process and gaining 10 million pounds more, they will affect the spirit of relations between Egyptians and Israelis? I tell them: Respond to the call of peace. There is no call for complications. A court ruling had been issued with regard to the land of Tabah, which all of us have accepted. So, why this complication? I fear its future consequences.

In his statements to journalists after the farewell ceremony for the Nigerian president in Al-Qubbah Palace, Mubarak pointed out: The talks with the Nigerian president went well as important ties link us to Nigeria. We have strong relations with the African countries.

Asked about Arab-African cooperation, the president said: Various developments have occurred, including the Middle East problem and others, which have complicated and delayed matters. Besides, there has been a severe drop in oil prices. All these factors have hindered cooperation, but we hope we will be able to revive it.

Asked by Nigerian journalists whether or not he will propose to the forthcoming African summit conference the resumption of relations with Israel, President Mubarak said: I will not ask that because every country is responsible for itself and makes its own decisions. We cannot impose anything on another country. We established diplomatic relations with Israel according to our decision.

Commenting on the Egyptian move concerning the Palestinian cause, the president said: Egypt has always been on the move, and this move must be characterized by absolute calm. We must give the new U.S. Administration a chance to examine its stand and prepare a comprehensive study. Afterward, we can meet with various U.S. groups, particularly with the new U.S. Administration, to exchange views and explore new concepts, through which we can move and reach a settlement on the Palestinian issue.

Asked whether a date has been set for his visit to the United States, he replied: No date has been determined.

The Nigerian president was asked about the results of his talks with President Mubarak. He expressed his gratitude to President Mubarak for inviting him and the delegation accompanying him to visit Egypt. He said: During the past 4 days we held very useful bilateral talks. I am happy that our talks covered various aspects, including agriculture, medicine, and education. I also held talks with President Mubarak on a number of other issues dealing with various world regions.

Answering a question on outstanding African issues and coordination between Egypt and Nigeria, the Nigerian president said: We discussed the issues of the continent in general, as well as the security and economic situation, and agreed on joint strategies to face these issues together.

On Nigeria's support for the Palestinian state, President Babangida said: You realize that we originally recognized and supported the Palestinian struggle. We will continue to do so.

Replying to another question on his hopes for the new U.S. Administration's actions regarding Africa, he said: We are sure that the current administration will have greater understanding of Africa's problems.

On this year's oil prices, as Nigeria is a major member of OPEC, Babangida said: We hope that luck will stay with us, and that oil prices will stabilize.

Israeli-Palestinian Committee Appeals for Talks

NC2301140989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1227 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Latif Duri, secretary of the Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, who is currently in Cairo, has praised the speech President Husni Mubarak delivered on the occasion of Police Day. Duri said: We greatly appreciate the greetings which President Mubarak conveyed in his speech to the forces of peace.

In a statement to MENA, Duri said: The peace groups in Israel hail the big role which Egypt—its people, government, and president—is playing to give an impetus to the peace process. They also support Egypt's sincere efforts to convene the international conference for peace with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO and Israel, in order that we may achieve the just and comprehensive peace which will put an end to the hateful occupation and realize the Palestinian people's aspirations of establishing their independent state alongside Israel.

Duri revealed that 26 Palestinians were martyred and 492 others were wounded in 1 month at the hands of the Israeli Army. He said that these figures indicate the hardened heart and feelings of Yitzhaq Rabin, the occupation minister, who is trying to quell the Palestinian uprising by suppressive and savage methods. He affirmed that the Israeli Government will fail to suppress the uprising because it is an uprising of a whole people against the occupation.

Duri appealed to the Israeli public to demand that the Israeli Government stop the bloodshed in the occupied areas and declare its readiness to begin negotiations with the PLO within the framework of an international conference for peace.

Duri emphasized that the response to the call for peace is growing in Israeli circles, and that the groups and organizations which call for peace represent 54 percent of all Israelis. He expressed his confidence that peace will be achieved, despite all the difficulties and hindrances which the Israeli Government is imposing, and said that there is no alternative to peace as far as the peoples in the region are concerned.

Duri arrived in Cairo yesterday to participate in a seminar organized by the Egyptian AAPSO [expansion unknown] Committee on the possibilities for peace between the Palestinians and Israelis. The seminar will be held in Cairo and will be attended by advocates of peace in Israel and by Arab, Palestinian, and European intellectuals.

State Department's Sofaer's Arrives in Cairo

NC3101204089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2007 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State Department legal adviser and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, arrived in Cairo this evening. Upon his arrival, he stated that he has certain ideas which he wants to submit to the Egyptian Government and expressed his hope that a third round of talks will be held between Egypt and Israel.

Sofaer was received at the airport by Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, head of Egypt's permanent delegation to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva and chief of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks.

AL-SHA'B Denounces U.S. Stance on Aid Program

PM2501154289 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 89 p 1

[Fikri 'Abd al-Muttalib report: "United States Freezes Part of Aid Until Agreement With Fund Is Reached"]

[Text] While IMF experts and Egyptian officials began their preliminary talks to discuss the nature of the economic policies to be pursued by the government in the period ahead, the United States continued for the second year to freeze the sum of $150 million which it grants to Egypt within the framework of the annual aid program. It also froze the sum decided for last year (1987/88). So the frozen amount now totals $300 million.

During the current Egyptian-U.S. negotiations, which have continued for several months now, the U.S. Administration refused to pay the remaining part ($70 million) of the wheat loan, which totals $170 million!

Responsible economic sources said that the U.S. measures are designed to force the government to implement the economic policies required by the IMF, especially since negotiations between them have faltered over the past few months!

The sources added that the aim of President Mubarak's visit to the United States, scheduled for March, is to persuade the new U.S. Administration to play a more positive role in softening IMF officials' hard-line in view of the potential risks of the proposed economic policies!

Syrian Offer To Mediate With Iran Snubbed

PM3101112289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25-31 Jan 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Conditional Syrian Offer for Release of Egyptian Prisoners Held in Iran"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that Egypt has rejected a Syrian offer, conveyed by Arab mediators, to intercede with the Iranian Government for the release of the Egyptian prisoners of war held in Iran in return for nonrecognition of and suspension of contacts with Lebanon's military government headed by General Michel 'Awn.

Gen 'Awn sent a letter to President Mubarak appealing to him to recognize his government as the legitimate government of Lebanon and reaffirming Lebanon's Arab identity and commitment to all Arab stances, particularly recognition of the new Palestinian state. He also said that he intended to open a PLO office in East Beirut and to give it diplomatic status.

Earlier, Cairo rejected a mediation offer made by People's Assembly Member Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri on his return from Tehran following the Iranian Government's approval of his mediation between the Egyptian and Iranian Governments for the prisoners' release.

'Abd al-Majid on Arab Summit, Syria, Libya

NC2701125689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that the Palestinian issue is a constant concern of the Egyptian leadership and the focus of President Husni Mubarak's efforts. He noted that President Mubarak was the first person to call for holding a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The call, made in February 1988, came after the Palestinian uprising erupted in December 1987. [passage omitted]

In an interview with the Voice of the Arabs radio last night, the foreign minister remarked that, as a result of the just claims of the Palestinian cause, the whole world has hastened to support the PLO, especially after the Palestinian issue imposed itself on the world and after the UN General Assembly approved by a large majority the need to convene an international peace conference.

'Abd al-Majid noted that Yasir 'Arafat is now making visits to countries which he could not possibly have visited at an earlier stage, such as Finland and Italy. He also noted 'Arafat's meeting with the pope at the Vatican. 'Abd al-Majid explained that all these matters are

significant on the diplomatic level, and he urged the Arabs to exploit them. He said he hoped that international efforts to hold an international peace conference will continue.

The deputy prime minister emphasized that the EC has a major role to play in promoting the peace process and holding an international conference. He noted that two EC countries, Britain and France, are permanent members of the UN Security Council. He said that, as a consequence of recently changing concepts, Western countries must play a role in influencing the United States first, and then Israel. [passage omitted]

Regarding Egyptian-Syrian relations, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that good offices designed to bring about an Egyptian-Syrian dialogue are being made. He said he believed that the goal of these good offices is not to hold a meeting of the Egyptian and Syrian leaders as much as it is to lessen the tension between the two countries.

The foreign minister added that the media campaigns between the two countries have stopped, and pointed out that at numerous meetings Syria is supporting Egypt's return to Arab organizations, the latest being the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid referred to meetings that took place between him and the Syrian foreign minister on social occasions in Paris, saying that although these are little things that have no political significance, they are nevertheless helpful. He said that differences of views do not harm good feelings between parties, and stressed the need for each side to respect the other side's viewpoint and not to try to impose his own. He said that there is love and amity between us and the Syrian people and nothing separates us from Syria.

Answering a question on the Egyptian-Libyan relationship, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stated that there are political differences between the two countries with regard to some issues. He stressed, however, that each country must respect the views of the other and not try to impose its own views. Referring to halting the media campaigns between them, he said that this is an important matter. He noted that Egyptians have kinship ties with the Libyans. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt would be glad for any Libyan responsiveness toward it. [passage omitted]

Concerning prospects of Egypt attending the next Arab summit conference and the reports which have been published on this, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt will attend any future Arab summit, whether it is an ordinary or an extraordinary one. He said that it is clear that there is some agreement of views on this issue. He added that the question now is when this summit will be held. He remarked that these are matters which are for the Arab leaders to decide.

Answering a question on the Tabah issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Be assured that Tabah is 100 percent Egyptian. It is not possible to harm Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah, since this sovereignty existed before and after the arbitration. He urged an Israeli withdrawal from the area and noted that the outstanding issues dealing with entry into the area and the hotel are currently being discussed.

On the Egyptian-Iranian relationship, 'Abd al-Majid said that it was Iran which had severed diplomatic relations with Egypt, not vice versa. He urged Iran to release the Egyptian POW's, to be responsive to Iraqi peace efforts, and not to impose its hegemony over the region.

Mubarak Receives Moroccan Minister, King's Message

NC3001091789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Moroccan Energy Minister Mohamed Fettah at the Presidential Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Energy Minister Mahir Abazah and Mohamed al-Tazi, Morocco's ambassador to Cairo.

In a statement after the meeting, the Moroccan minister said he had conveyed a verbal message to President Mubarak from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message deals with regional developments and Egyptian-Moroccan cooperation. He added that President Mubarak had asked him to convey a similar message to the Moroccan monarch.

Human Rights Group Calls For Hostages Release

NC3101183689 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 31 (MENA)—The Arab Human Rights Organization on Tuesday condemned the abduction of hostages in Lebanon and called for their immediate release.

A statement from the Cairo-based organization also expressed concern over "the deterioration of human rights in most Arab countreis."

The group's 23-member council stressed its "condemnation of kidnappings, which are contrary to Arab and human values" and appealed to those holding hostages to free them "unconditionally."

It called on all Arab governments to end practices that violate human rights, release all political detainees, abolish emergency legislation and respect the rights of national minorities.

"This is the only way to extract the Arab nation from its current material and moral decadence," the statement said.

Membership in Arab Shipping Company Restored

JN2601120589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—The General Assembly of the Arab shipping company today terminated the freezing of Egypt's membership and decided to return Egypt to its board of directors. This came in a decision issued by the company's General Assembly in accordance with a recommendation from the board of directors. The General Assembly also decided to invite Egypt to attend the General Assembly's coming meeting in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Paper Lauds 4-Country Economic Grouping

NC2901084389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper lauds the announcement of the establishment of an economic grouping between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR, describing it as a promising move that will allow better and more effective exploitation of Arab energies and capabilities for the good of these four countries' peoples and the peoples of the whole Arab world.

In an editorial today, the paper remarks that this grouping will strengthen the position of the member states in any future negotiations with other countries and international bodies and enable them to obtain better deals and conditions.

The paper expresses the hope that this grouping will become a nucleus for a political grouping in the not too distant future. It notes that economics and politics are two faces of the same coin.

The paper asserts that the Arab world of 22 states linked by numerous ties of religion, language, traditions, and common interess is the ideal international grouping for forming a powerful economic bloc that will be able to undertake an effective role in serving the peoples of the Arab nation interests' and defending their extensive economic concerns. It will also achieve an appropriate degree of integration among the Arab countries that will bring them assured benefits, the paper adds. It regrets that this has not happened until now.

AL-SHA'B Defends Student, Islamic Groups

PM2501124089 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 89 p 5

[Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad article: "Do Not Cover Up the Regime's Mistakes"]

[Excerpts] In its latest edition last Saturday the government paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM carried a lengthy article by its chief editor commenting on the statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide regarding the recent incidents in the 'Ayn Shams quarter of Cairo. It contained many prevarications, distortions of the facts, and prescriptions of ineffective remedies. It is therefore necessary for us to explain the facts as they really are.

The author maintains that political terrorism began with the assassination of former President Anwar al-Sadat on 6 October 1981 at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the victory against Israel in 1973. He forgets that the initial aggressor was Al-Sadat himself, may God forgive him, who issued his rash decisions on 15 September of that year ordering the detention of over 1,500 political and religious leaders, Muslim and Coptic writers and journalists, and men and women, both old and young. He threw them into prison without bringing any charges. [passage omitted]

So, political terrorism was begun in 1981 by former President Anwar al-Sadat not by the Islamic groups. It is axiomatic that terrorism, especially by the state, breeds counterterrorism because its victims often cannot find any legal means of stopping state terrorism or putting an end to the injustice, and so they are forced to meet state terrorism with equal terrorism.

If AKHBAR AL-YAWM's chief editor mentioned an incident—the truth, details, and implications of which he could not be certain—as evidence of bad relations between teachers and students and a lack of the necessary respect for teachers, he forgot or overlooked the causes of the multi-faceted defects in the universities. These defects can be summed up in the authorities' affront to the universities' independence and attempts to make university leaders subservient to the regime.

As a result of pressure by the political security organs or exploitation of living conditions, some students have been accustomed to spying on their professors and colleagues and to submitting secret reports about their conversations and conduct. The authorities also tried to entice university staff to work for them and tempt them with offers of posts outside the university so they would help the authorities suppress students and observe their possibly worrying behavior. [passage omitted]

The authorities interfered with the student unions' elections by abolishing the bylaws governing them so they would lose their student identity as well as the student majority in unions, and by banning student political and religious activities, which forces students to engage in such activity in conflict with the university leadership. [passage omitted]

Then we recently began to hear abusive language used by the current interior minister—who has the blessing of President Husni Mubarak—against members of the boards of directors of university staff clubs in the presence of their students, offensively threatening to close their clubs down. How, after that, could any of the regime's defenders wonder at the bad relations within the universities and at the misconduct within its walls, now that the regime has undermined the dignity and

reputation of the teachers, interfered in university affairs, encroached on their independence, restricted the students, and stifled their generally accepted campus freedoms?

It is indeed strange that the regime's defenders should call for wisdom and a good example when there is a ban on religious societies and parties and on the publication of Islamic papers to express the views of the various Islamic groups. [passage omitted]

Is there any wisdom or good example in the police's storming mosques to prevent Muslim compatriots from expressing their views and by so doing causing clashes and battles, or is such wisdom and good example to be shown by allowing people with opposing views to express them in the same way?

This leads us to the method used by the security organs in tackling people they consider to be members of the Islamic groups. It is not the duty of the police to confront any ideological trend. The duty of the police is confined to confronting outlaws and criminals, preventing crime, and pursuing and apprehending culprits within the limits of the law. [passage omitted]

Concluding his article, AKHBAR AL-YAWM's chief editor calls for an attempt to drive a wedge between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic groups on the grounds that the groups do not recognize the Muslim Brotherhood and they renounce the brotherhood members—which he says is an insult to those members, who should be the first to confront these groups. Reform and guidance onto the correct path cannot be achieved by instigating one group of citizens against another. They can best be achieved by treating the causes which upset the Muslim youth and having the government refrain from provocative methods and turn to true democracy, which naturally opens the way to discussion and dialogue without clashes or confrontation. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Senegalese Minister Arrives With Diouf Message

AB3101153189 Paris AFP in French 1120 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 31 Jan (AFP)—Mr Moussa Toure, Senegal's minister delegate to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, arrived in Nouakchott today with a message from President Abdou Diouf to the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya. Mr Toure did not make any statement to the press upon arrival. However, it was learned from other members of his delegation that his visit to Nouakchott is to search for a solution to the current economic dispute between the two countries. The Senegalese minister will be received today by the Mauritanian leader. He will later hold talks with the minister of economy and finance, Mr Mohamed Ould Many.

The economic dispute between the two countries started at the beginning of the year and it was reportedly caused, according to the Senegalese side, by restrictions imposed on Senegalese traders residing in Mauritania by the Nouakchott authorities with regard to free movement of persons and goods. In retaliation, Dakar blocked several Mauritanian truck loads of goods at their common border.

Sudan

State Council Declares 'General Mobilization'

NC3101172989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese State Council has declared a general mobilization in support of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The council issued a statement today saying that the recapture of Nasir town is a fundamental stage in the peace process, the pivot of which is national dignity.

The council stressed that it will implement a comprehensive plan to mobilize all national efforts in support of the Armed Forces and to achieve security and stability that will lead to peace.

The council called on the people to rally around their Armed Forces and to consider the recapture of Nasir town as the cause of the masses as a whole in their struggle against the enemies of national sovereignty.

The council also stressed that no foreign force will be allowed to defame Sudan's history, which is bedecked with battle honors won in the fight for the integrity of the national territory and a peaceful future for the country.

State Council Relieves 7 Ministers of Posts

NC3101175489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese State Council decided today to relieve seven ministers of their posts.

The seven ministers who have been relieved of their posts are:

Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi	Minister of Justice, Attorney General, and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi	Minister of Energy and Mining
'Abbas Abu Shamah	Minister of Interior
'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad	Minister of Culture and Information
Aldo Ajo Deng	Minister of Transportation
Mathew Abor	Minister of Labor and Social Insurance
Richard Makubi	Minister of Regional Coordination and Local Government Planning.

Furthermore, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has decided to abolish the Ministries of Public Communications, Religious Affair, and Awqaf, and Relief and Evacuees, as part of the government's plan to streamline government agencies, rationalize expenditure, and reduce the number of ministries.

This afternoon the prime minister started consultations on the formation of a new government with the parties participating in the government. They are the Al-Ummah Party, the Islamic Front, the parties of the South, and the Sudanese National Party. The new government is expected to be announced later today or tomorrow morning.

Al-Mahdi on Darfur Events, Libyan Aid to Garang

NC3101050289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jan (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has emphasized that the Brotherhood Charter is the framework which governs the relations between the two fraternal countries Egypt and Sudan. Al-Mahdi stressed this in the course of his reply to opposition inquiries during today's meeting of the Constituent Assembly under its chairman Muhammad Yusuf.

Answering a question on foreign interference in Darfur Province, Al-Mahdi stressed that there are no foreign forces in the privince. He stated that instructions have been given to the forces in the province to deal with any foreign force there. He went on to say that it has been decided to send military forces to Darfur, noting that 6.5 million Sudanese pounds have been allocated to defend the province, and that the police force there will be strengthened by 1,500 trained policemen.

Regarding the democratic opposition's reference to Libya's financing of the Garang movement in the South, Al-Mahdi pointed out that one of the causes of disagreement with the Libyan leaders was their supply of arms to the rebel movement under the leadership of John Garang. The Libyans, however, he added, have recently refrained from giving arms to the movement.

Al-Mahdi said that foreign circles and quarters resort to various means to limit the exercise of freedom and democracy in Sudan so as to obstruct the democratic experiment. He will identify these circles and quarters in the future, he added.

The prime minister said Sudan is committed to peace. He added that his continued leadership of Sudan depends on the support of the present Constituent Assembly until new general elections are held. He also said that the continuation of the mutiny and guerrilla warfare in the South will expose the southern inhabitants to death from hunger, illness, and fear. He attacked all those who stand behind and support this movement, describing them as the enemies of peace at a time when the Sudanese Government is extending a hand of peace.

Referring to the economic situation in Sudan, Al-Mahdi said that the World Bank's information up to the year 1986 indicated that annual average per capita income in Sudan amounted to $360, or more than the average per capita income in 39 world states. He added that the growth rate for this year [as received] reached more than 7 percent.

The Constituent Assembly has unanimously agreed that Al-Mahdi should continue to adopt the measures necessary for convening the constitutional national conference as soon as possible. The assembly also approved the political and economic statement which Al-Mahdi submitted last Monday. At the same time, it rejected the statement by the federal opposition, represented by the Democratic Unionist Party, and the democratic opposition, represented by the Sudanese Communist Party and some parties in the South.

Kuwait

Information Minister on New GCC Radio Station

LD3101104489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0928 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 31 (KUNA)—Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamid said Tuesday that the broadcast of Voice of the GCC from Radio Kuwait coincides with two happy occasions, the 28th national day and the month of Ramadan.

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Jabir said that the Voice of the GCC will begin airing its programs Feb 1 through the end of May.

He added that the four-month broadcast period will air distinguished programs and radio material, as Radio Kuwait provided the Voice of the GCC with a work team and a group of reporters spread all over GCC capitals to prepare news messages and reports on a number of daily local and Gulf activities.

The minister expressed optimism over the current situation in the Gulf region, in light of the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, affirming the desire of GCC leaders to enhance cooperation among their countries.

He said that the ministry exerts maximum efforts to introduce Kuwait's accomplishments during the past 28 years of independence, in accordance with the instructions of h.h. the amir and h.h. the crown prince and premier, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah.

In conclusion, Shaykh Jabir said that the coming few weeks and months will witness more activities for the Kuwaiti media inside and outside.

Prime Minister To Pay Visit to Iraq 6 Feb

LD2901132889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1128 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jan (KUNA)—It was announced officially here that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, will pay an official visit to Iraq on 6 February.

Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, in a statement to newsmen after the weekly cabinet meeting, said that during his visit the heir apparent will discuss all the developments in the Arab region and the efforts which are being made to strengthen solidarity and joint Arab action to serve Arab issues.

Al-Rashid said that the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed its confidence that the official visit will be a practical contribution toward strengthening the firm fraternal ties between the two countries.

Oman

Somali Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 30 Jan

JN3001102689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Muscat, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle, Somali deputy prime minister for security, defense, and social affairs, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Muscat this morning on an official visit of several days. In an arrival statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, Ahmed Suleiman said that he is bringing a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. He added that he will hold talks with senior officials on bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Gives Message to Sultan Qabus

JN3101143089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has received a written message from his brother, His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, president of fraternal Somalia.

The message was received by His Highness Shaykh Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, during his reception at his office today of Ahmad Suleiman Abdulle, Somali deputy prime minister for security, defense, and social affairs and member of the political bureau in Somalia, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Mauritius

JN3101142689 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Sultanate of Oman and the Mauritius Republic have decided to establish official diplomatic relations between them on the level of non-resident ambassadors effective today [31 January].

A joint statement in this regard was issued in both Oman and Mauritius. [passage omitted]

PDRY

USSR's Petrovskiy Stops Over en Route to Moscow

EA2101201889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy stopped over at Aden Airport this evening on his return to Moscow from Nairobi. He was received at the airport by Brother Dr Sa'id Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister, and Comrade Albert Rachkov, the Soviet ambassador in Aden. Brother Sa'id Muhsin and Comrade Petrovskiy

exchanged views on a number of aspects of bilateral relations and ways of developing and strengthening them. They also exchanged views on other issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan Begins Visit

LD2901121589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] His Excellency the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, arrived in Riyadh this morning on a visit to the Kingdom.

Upon his arrival at King Khalid International Airport, His Excellency was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs; the chief of protocols at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Tawfiq al-Alamdar; and the Pakistani ambassador in the Kingdom, Muhammad Walullah Khaishgi.

Meets With Counterpart

LD2901145389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh 29 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his office today met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

A discussion of a number of Islamic and international issues of mutual interest took place.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministry's undersecretary for political affairs, 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri; the assistant undersecretary for political affairs, Isma'il al-Shura; the head of the general section for Islamic Affairs, Ambassador Muhammad Fayiz; and the delegation accompanying the Pakistani foreign minister.

United Arab Emirates

First Gulf Air Flight From Abu Dhabi to Baghdad

JN0102113889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Feb (WAKH)—A Gulf Air airliner left Abu Dhabi today for Baghdad on the first flight following the end of the Iraq-Iran war. This comes after Gulf Air decided to resume its flights from the states that own the corporation and Baghdad. This came in a statement to WAM by 'Abd al-Muhsin Haydar, regional sales manager in Abu Dhabi.

There will be three scheduled Boeing-737 flights, from Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Manama to Baghdad as follows: A flight from Bahrain and Doha on Sundays, a flight from Bahrain on Mondays, and a flight from Abu Dhabi on Wednesdays. The corporation has also decided to schedule flights from the Gulf states at appropriate times to connect with flights for Baghdad from any of the states owning the corporation.

Somali Official Conveys Message to Sharjah Ruler

JN2901123589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Sharjah, received this morning at his palace, Somali Deputy Premier Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle and the accompanying delegation. The Somali official conveyed to his highness the Sharjah ruler the greetings of Somali President Siad Barre. The meeting was attended by Somali Ambassador to UAE Abdelrahman Othman Omar.

Offers Amnesty for Secessionists

JN2801162889 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 28 (GNA)—Somalia has decided to extend a general amnesty to secessionist guerrillas inside the country or outside it, Somali Deputy Premier Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle said today.

"We are offering once again a general amnesty to the secessionists inside Somalia and outside it," he told reporters here.

Abdulle arrived on Wednesday and delivered a letter to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on issues of common concern. He is due to visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman as part of his country's bid to explain the situation in the north and deny allegations of human rights abuses.

Abdulle said Somalia's foreign policy was based on neutrality and non-alignment.

"Our policy also strongly calls for establishment of world peace and security and resolving disputes through direct negotiations and peaceful means "without violating human rights." [quotation marks as received]

President Mohamed Siad Barre toured Egypt, Iraq and Kuwait last week while Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Samantar was visiting Britain where he had talks with Prime Minister Margharet Thatcher. He is due to go to the U.S. and Canada.

Abdulle told reporters he would discuss joint investment ventures during his Gulf tour.

"Our country has vast natural resources and is ready to open its doors for investment from Arab and friendly states," he said, adding their animal wealth was estimated at more than 40 million heads.

Arable areas exceed eight million hectares, but only 900,000 hectares are utilised, he said.

He cited farming, fishing, tourism and exoport industries as good investment opportunities.

He said Somalia had plans to develop education, health, culture and housing services.

Turkish Chief of Staff Departs 31 Jan

JN3101135889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] General Necip Torumtay, chief of staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, and the accompanying military delegation left the country today.

He was seen off by Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, a number of senior officers, and Tugay Ulucevik, the Turkish ambassador to UAE.

Saddam Approves Formation of Military Committee
JN3101213489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations of the approval of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn of forming the joint military committee proposed by the UN secretary general and of lifting the ban previously imposed by Iraq on civilian aircraft heading to Iran.

This came in a letter from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter was conveyed by the Iraqi UN representative today.

The letter, which was distributed to the UN Security Council members, contained the wishes of success from His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn for the mission of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which was designed to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Daily Terms Lebanon Pact 'Dangerous Phenomenon'
JN3101125289 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 31, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said Arab leaders must consider the abnormal nature of the Syrian regime and that there is no way to reform it but rather discarding it.

A daily commentary here today said the yesterday Syrian-Iranian agreement on the bloody fighting between pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian militias in Lebanon confirms that this fighting is the outcome of the Syrian and Iranian direct intervention at the expense of Lebanon's national sovereignty and interests.

It added that the agreement is a dangerous phenomenon on the level of pan-Arab action by allowing foreign interference in determining pure Arab issues and affairs.

It added that the agreement is a rejection of any joint Arab action as concerns the Lebanese crisis and a major card of blackmail to the Syrian regime for blocking Arab solidarity and sabotaging Arab relations.

Press Statement on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani
JN3101145789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—A press statement on the visit by Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani to Iraq 28-31 Januaray 1989 was issued today.

The statement stressed that Al-Mirghani's official talks with President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials were conducted in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere and covered their intimate bilateral relations and means of boosting and expanding them in the interests of the two sisterly countries and the Arab and Muslim nations.

The statement pointed out that the talks also dealt with Arab and regional issues of common concern.

Following is the text of the press statement on the visit to Iraq by the Sudanese State Council chairman:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Press statement on the visit to the Republic of Iraq by the chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Sudan 28-31 January 1989.

Upon an honorable official invitation by Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and in an embodiment of the feelings of honest brotherhood and historical bonds between the peoples of the two sisterly countries, Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council in the Republic of Sudan, visited the Republic of Iraq at the head of an official delegation 28-31 January 1989. His excellency was accorded an official reception.

Al-Mirghani held official talks with his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also received at his place of residence Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and frist deputy prime minister; and a number of Iraqi officials.

During the visit, his excellency and his accompanying delegation laid a floral wreath on the monument of the unknown soldier. His excellency also visited the steadfast city of Al-Basrah, where he saw the aftermath of the war and was apprised of the immense efforts exerted by the Iraqi leadership to reconstruct the city.

The official talks were held in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere and covered their intimate bilateral relations and means of boosting and expanding them in the interests of the two sisterly countries and the Arab and Islamic nations. The talks also dealt with Arab and regional issues of common concern.

On the Sudanese side, the following were invloved in the talks:

1. Ibrahim al-Amin, minister of state for expatriates' affairs.

2. Ahmad Husayn al-Rifa'i, secretary general of the presidency.

3. Muhammad Ahmad al-Mirghani, Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

4. Al-Rashid Khadr, director of the Political Department at the Presidential Palace.

5. Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad 'Abdallah, executive director of the State Council chairman's office.

6. Salih 'Abduh Shamun, acting director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the following:

1. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister.

2. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister.

3. Tariq Muhammad Yahya, Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum.

When the excellent bilateral relations were reviewed, the two sides voiced their satisfaction over the level attained in these relations.

His Excellency State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani expressed the gratitude and appreciation of Sudan—leadership, government, and people—for the support and solidarity demonstrated to the Sudanese people by fraternal Iraq when the Sudanese people were coping with the effects of floods, inundation, and heavy rains, which engulfed Sudan late last year.

His excellency the State Council chairman also voiced the Sudanese people's congratulations to the fraternal Iraqi people, their wise leadership, and their valiant Army on the victory realized while defending the sacred territory of fraternal Iraq on behalf of the entire Arab nation. He also expressed deep satisfaction with the end of hostilities and the initiation of peace negotiations and hoped that these negotiations will lead to comprehensive and durable peace in the interests of the region's peoples.

The Sudanese side paid tribute to the progress made by Iraq in all spheres, thanks to the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn and the genius of the fraternal Iraqi people.

On the other hand, the Iraqi side paid tribute to the sincere efforts exerted by the Sudanese leadership to reach a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan problem, entrench the democratic experience, and bring about stability in the country in the interests of the fraternal Sudanese people and the Arab nation.

When the regional and Arab situations were discussed, the stands of the two fraternal states were identical on the issues discussed.

The two sides affirmed their eagerness to continue the consultations between the leaderships of the two states in order to crystallize a joint Arab stand capable of enhancing Arab solidarity in the face of all the challenges being hatched against the Arab nation.

At the conclusion of the talks, Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani voiced his deep thanks and gratitude to President Saddam Husayn and the people and Government of Iraq for the hospitality and good welcome accorded him and his accompanying delegation. This hospitality and good welcome have further bolstered and strengthened the already strong bilateral relations and historic ties binding the two fraternal peoples of Sudan and Iraq.

His Excellency State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani extended an invitation to President Saddam Husayn to visit the Republic of the Sudan. His excellency the president accepted the invitation with the understanding that a date will be fixed through dipiomatic channels.

Issued in Khartoum and Baghdad on 31 January 1989.

Ends 4-Day Visit, Departs

JN3101133689 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 31, INA—Sudanese President, Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani this afternoon left Baghdad ending a four-day visit to Iraq.

An official send off was accorded to the Sudanese president in which President Husayn took part.

President Al-Mirghani was also seen off by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice-president, several members of the RCC, the ministers and Iraqi ambassador to Khartoum.

During the visit, the Sudanese president was accompanied by Dr. Ibrahim al-Amin, state minister for expatriate affairs, Ahmad Husayn al-Rifa'i, secretary-general of the presidency and Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad, executive director of the president's office.

Officers Put on Trial for Murdering Colleague

JN2801104589 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] A number of police officers have been referred to a special court in accordance with article 410 K/P—beating resulting in death—for causing the death of Warrant Officer 'Ali Muhsin Karam after torturing him at the Al-Najaf crime combat police directorate. The officers are Colonel Jasim Muhammad al-Sayyid 'Ali, Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan Salih, 1st Lieutenant Kamal Mahdi, 1st Lt Ahmad Jasim, 1st Lt 'Idan Muhammad Farhan, Lieutenant Majid Isma'il, and Commissioner Sabah Rasul.

An inquiry committee was formed to study the issue. It found that after the murder of Comrade Kamil Kazim from Al-Najaf Ba'th Party branch, 'Ali Muhsin Karam, Hatif Hammudi, and 'Abbas Sadiq were apprehended after a woman informed the police that they had been frequenting a house adjacent to hers, and that a quarrel took place—between the last two and a person wearing a military uniform—which resulted in his death. However, they had nothing to do with the murder of Comrade Kamil Kazim who was killed by persons harboring rancor against the party and the revolution. Those persons were apprehended and will receive their just punishment.

The Al-Najaf inquiry court has been instructed to hold further investigations to identify the man who was killed in the quarrel, find his murderer, continue investigations on the issue of torturing Hatif Hammudi and 'Abbas Sadiq, and to cancel the inquiry council set up by the Interior Ministry to inquire into the murder of Warrant Officer 'Ali Muhsin Karam.

'Indirect Dialogue' Sought With PLO Leaders

TA0102103689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] The defense establishment has been recently trying to engage in an indirect dialogue with the PLO leadership overseas.

The intention is to set up a channel of communications via go-betweens in order to allow direct Israeli-Palestinian talks on a solution to the problem of the territories once conditions for this are ripe.

The defense establishment has reached the conclusion that without some form of coordination and dialogue with the PLO it will be impossible to propel the political process toward a solution to the Palestinian problem and the uprising in the territories.

The PLO leadership under 'Arafat has objected to operational or political negotiations being conducted between personalities from the territories and official Israeli representatives. Israel, for its part, has so far refused to negotiate directly with the PLO leadership. According to the assessment of various sources, the defense minister is trying to find ways to circumvent this hurdle by using the good offices of Palestinian figures from the territories to transmit messages back and forth between Tunis and Tel Aviv.

In this way, the PLO leadership headed by 'Arafat will participate in the process without being directly involved in it. Its opposition to direct negotiations between Israel and a representation of the inhabitants of the territories might thus weaken.

The defense minister's move has been sanctioned by the prime minister. The U.S. Administration, too, has demonstrated great interest in the defense minister's plan and in attempts to realize it. A team of diplomats from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv is following developments in this area.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that the talks conducted by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, with Faysal al-Husayni in the Kefar Yona jail and Al-Husayni's release from administration detention constituted the prologue to a process initiated by the defense minister to turn the PLO into a tacit partner in dialogue.

During the talks with Goren, Al-Husayni was told explicitly that he would be permitted to leave Israel for overseas destinations if he should so request, provided that he undertake not to break the law, meaning that he pledges not to maintain contacts with the PLO. A senior defense establishment source said that there is no intention of maintaining close surveillance, "scrutinizing Al-Husayni's interlocutors, or checking out specifically whom he meets and whom he does not" during his stays abroad.

In his conversations with Goren, Al-Husayni repeatedly emphasized that the Palestinians will never be satisfied with anything short of a Palestinian state, and that they will likewise never forgo the "right of return." "Perhaps we, the Palestinians, will be prepared to give up the right of return, but only if you Israelis are ready to give up the Law of Return," said Al-Husayni.

(By "the right of return," the Palestinians mean their right to return to Yafo, Haifa, and abandoned villages; the Law of Return, on the other hand, allows every Jew to immigrate to Israel and be automatically granted Israeli citizenship.)

Usually Al-Husayni's views are in tandem with the PLO's. Thus, for example, he demands that elections in the territories be held under international auspices. At the same time, he is not happy with the fact that the uprising leadership in the territories is not enjoying greater sovereignty and is not being accorded greater powers by the PLO. "The intifadah [uprising] is being sustained on our backs. We (the inhabitants of the territories) are required to bear the main brunt," he maintained, without directly referring to 'Arafat and his men.

'Secret Meeting' Planned

TA0102104889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] The first official meeting between an Israeli and a PLO representative on European soil may take place soon.

The preparations for a clandestine meeting between an official Israeli representative and a PLO representative began a short while ago.

Senior Palestinian sources have told our correspondent that the planned meeting will involve a senior Palestinian representative who would be a personal envoy on behalf of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and an Israeli representative, probably an official in one of the Israeli embassies in Europe.

Our correspondent points out that the secret meeting, which conflicts with the official Israeli and PLO stands, forms part of the defense minister's new concept. According to his new thinking, it is necessary to talk to the PLO, at least indirectly, to promote a political solution to the problem of the territories and the intifadah. [uprising]

'Arafat has also expressed his consent to meet with Israelis in Jerusalem before the convocation of an international conference.

Our correspondent points out that a few days ago 'Arafat said that he received a message from official Israeli elements, but refused to divulge any further details. [passage omitted]

Shamir: IDF Would Leave Cities Under Autonomy

TA0102123389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that under a peace plan that would be a part of the autonomy according to the Camp David accords the IDF would leave several urban centers in the territories and would have camps in other spots. Our correspondent David Essing reports that, while speaking to reporters after he addressed a group of U.S. rabbis, Mr Shamir said that sovereignty would be discussed after 5 years of autonomy. He added that the Cabinet would soon discuss certain ideas raised by Defense Minister Rabin.

Foreign Ministry Says Soviet 'Israeli Citizen'

TA0102061389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] A Soviet mathematician who disappeared from a computer seminar in Paris 2 days ago has immigrated to Israel. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said Yakov Kogan has become an Israeli citizen. The spokesman would not confirm speculation in Paris that Kogan had defected. He had not told colleagues of his plans.

Mubarak Urged To Intervene in Tabah 'Crisis'

TA3101112689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has called on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to intervene in the Tabah crisis in order to ease the tension and allow for normal negotiations. Minister Levi conferred with the Egyptian ambassador in Israel this morning and discussed bilateral relations, including the tension in the Tabah talks. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Basyuni said he was sure the Tabah problem would be solved to the satisfaction of both sides.

Sofaer Proposals Approved

TA0102110389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] A short time ago, the Inner Cabinet approved U.S. mediator Abraham Sofaer's proposals for the renewal of the Tabah talks. According to the proposals, Israel will announce the date of its withdrawal from Tabah. In return, talks on the arrangements in the region would resume. Israel asked Sofaer to report this decision to the Egyptian foreign minister. Jerusalem is now awaiting the Egyptian response.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry will soon declare that Egypt is assuming responsibility for the murder of the Israelis in Ra's al-Burqa'. This was reported this morning to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee by Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav. Merhav said that the ruling of the Egyptian tribunal on the compensation to be paid is more than what is usually ruled in Egypt. He added that the families of the victims believe that they have not been disgraced by the ruling.

'Advanced' Missile Base Reported in Golan Heights

JN3101164089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Jan 89 P 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Israeli enemy army last week established a base for advanced missiles in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Palestinian and western sources in London have revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that the aforementioned base involves a long-range missile system and is only 3 km away from the Syrian city of Al-Qunaytirah. They added that this type of missile can reach remote areas.

IDF Denies Amnesty International Accusations

TA0102060789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Report by Shlomo Berger]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The army has denied an Amnesty International report accusing Israel of human rights abuses in the territories. An Amnesty report read out at the Human Rights conference in Geneva says Israel is using excessive force even though it knows this can cause a large number of casualties. The report says the army is misusing tear gas, and even firing it into hospitals and homes against instructions of the manufacturers.

The army spokesman says Israel is acting according to international law in the territories. The army says a detailed response will be given after thorough investigation.

Release of Nazi War Criminals Not Welcomed

TA2701190089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said tonight that Israel does not welcome the decision of the Netherlands authorities to release from life imprisonment two Nazi war criminals. According to our point of view as Israelis and Jews, there is no statute of limitations to Nazi crimes, Li'el said. The Netherlands Parliament today approved the Netherlands justice minister's proposal to release the two for humanitarian reasons, it said. [passage omitted]

Knesset Regrets Release

TA3001180789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The Knesset this evening expressed its sharp protest of the release of two Nazi criminals in Holland. The Knesset passed the resolution after discussing motions to the agenda presented by Knesset Members Ya'ir Tzaban, Shevah Weiss, and Mordekhay Virshubsky.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed deep disappointment in the Dutch decision.

'Numerous Hardships' in Peres-Proposed Budget

TA3101152089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres is currently submitting this year's state budget proposal to the Knesset. Our correspondent for economic affairs Me'ir Einstein reports that the overall budget amounts to 55.211 billion shekels. The budget cuts amount to 1.14 billion shekels. [1 shekel equals $0.55]

The budget proposal imposes numerous hardships on the public: The prices of subsidized basic commodities and public transportation will rise in a few months. The price of water will rise by 16 percent. A registration fee of between 350 and 800 shekels will be instituted in high schools, and anyone who has gross monthly earnings of 874 shekels or above will have to pay the maximum fee. A levy of between 1 and 3.5 percent of a vehicle's total value will be imposed on vehicles having an engine capacity of 1,800 cubic centimeters and above. Top wage earners will pay higher National Insurance payments. All elements in the paycheck will be included in the calculation of National Insurance payments, including car allowance, free telephone calls, health, and clothing.

The cost of hospitalization, as well as university fees, are also to rise. A graduated education charge will be instituted in preschool kindergartens in development towns. The allowance for the first child will not be paid this year and a 15-percent levy on imported services will remain in force.

Insurance for the exporters' fixed exchange rate will fall by 2 percent. Thousands of employees will be dismissed from government ministries and public service. Policemen, doctors, nurses, attorneys, judges, and tax collectors will not lose their jobs.

Rabin: Force 17 To Use New Name in Violence

TA3101135789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has revealed that the commander of the PLO's Force 17 has instructed activists in the territories to continue perpetrating acts of violence while using a different name for the group. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar spoke with the minister as he was leaving the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee session:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I know that within the framework of the PLO's standing instructions, the commander of Force 17 has ordered its activists involved in the uprising in the territories to continue their actions within the parameters of existing orders. The activists were told not to commit these activities under the mantle of Force 17, but to publicize their activity under a different name.

[Gilhar] Do you regard this as a PLO swindle, a way of tricking the United States?

[Rabin] First of all, I know that the Americans are familiar with most of the information we have. [end recording]

Rabin on IDF Goals

TA3101143389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the objective in the territories is to control the rioting and guarantee the safety of the residents. In a meeting with members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin said that a complete quelling of the uprising had not been set as a goal, just as the demand is not made of police to totally wipe out crime.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Rabin once again clarified that his phased plan to solve the problem of the territories is an expression of his personal position. He stated that he is forbidden to work for the implementation of the plan, as the government has not authorized him to do so. The defense minister expressed his regret about reports on the meeting between the coordinator of activities in the territories and Faysal al-Husayni, and said that the leak did not emanate from Arab sources.

Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee, warned that Minister Rabin's plan may disconnect Israel from the territories.

Soldiers in IDF Reserves To Serve 45 Days in 1989

TA3101165089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Soldiers in the reserves will serve 45 days in the IDF this year, and commanders will serve about 50 days, Major General Uri Sagi, commander of the Ground Forces Command, said today. He spoke to military correspondents on the 5th anniversary of the Cround Forces Command.

Gen Sagi also said that in the past year the IDF has tried to lighten the burden on reserve soldiers. He said that companies made up of enlisted soldiers have been set up as part of the regular army, but that operationally they will serve mainly in the territories.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Gen Sagi also disclosed that there has not been a rise in the number of training accidents in the IDF in the past year.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Firebombs Thrown at Buses

TA3101123289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles early this morning. The firebombs were hurled at buses in Qalqilyah and Al-Birah, causing no casualties or damage in either case.

The security forces launched searches, and trees were uprooted in the location from which the firebomb was thrown near Qalqilyah.

The Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm is still under curfew. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 31 January reports that "large IDF forces are searching the Nur al-Shams refugee camp for stone throwers. A female resident of the settlement of 'Enav was injured yesterday near Nur al-Shams when a stone was thrown at her car. A general strike is in progress throughout the Gaza Strip in response to the call by the leadership of the uprising in protest over the increased tax burden. Curfews are still in force in the Dayr al-Balah and Al-Burayj refugee camps."]

15 Wounded in Gaza 31 Jan

TA3101162189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] There were many stoning incidents and clashes with security forces in the Gaza Strip today. Sources in Gaza report that 15 people sustained injuries in the area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF has still not issued a statement.

Firebombing in N. Jerusalem

TA3101174389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli bus in the Shu'fat neighborhood in north Jerusalem this evening. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the firebomb missed the bus and ignited on the road. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Harsh Sentences for Stonings

TA3101205089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Gaza military court today handed down unprecedentedly harsh sentences on youths who threw stones at IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip. Six youths were given 18 months to 2 years in prison in addition to suspended sentences. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the judges said they found that stones can kill, just like live ammunition. The punishment is not only a punitive measure, but a deterrent for the accused and the public.

In Judaea and Samaria, six youths were wounded by IDF gunfire in violent clashes. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two youngsters were wounded in the village of Al-Zababidah in the Janin area and were hospitalized in Nabulus. The IDF operated in that village, as well as the neighboring village of Barta'ah.

Three youths sustained wounds in Janin during stone-throwing incidents. A masked youth was wounded in Balatah near Nabulus when he hurled stones and tried to prevent workers from leaving for their jobs in Israel by beating them.

Further on 31 Jan Unrest

TA0102084689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Nineteen Palestinians were reportedly shot and wounded in the Gaza Strip yesterday, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF spokesman put the number at seven, without giving further details.

Demonstrators burned tyres, raised Palestinian flags and threw stones in the Strip, where a day-long general strike was held to protest against the military government's tax crackdown in the territories.

In the West Bank, where the strike was also observed, troops shot and wounded eight Palestinians, according to local reports. The IDF confirmed six casualties. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in its leaflet No. 35, called on Palestinians to organize makeshift classes in mosques to counter school-closures ordered by the military government.

The handbill urged employers to maintain the level of workers' wages, appealed to landlords to reduce rents, and called on Palestinians to help the poor in order to counter the effects of an economic crisis caused by a decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar, the devaluation of the shekel, and the tax crackdown.

The leaflet called on Palestinians to conserve purchases, grow their own vegetables, and boycott Israeli goods. It also called for strikes. [passage omitted]

130 Israeli Muslims Leave on Hajj to Mecca

TA0102093189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] This morning, 130 Muslim residents of Israel left for Mecca to carry out the religious duty of the Minor Hajj. Some 300 travelers initially registered to go to Mecca. Many of them, however, decided against going because of the Jordanian and Saudi demand that they fly rather than go by bus, making the trip some 300 dinars more expensive. Others refrained from going because of the limited stay permits given them. The permits allow a stay of only 9 days, as opposed to 1 month as in the past.

King on Economy, New Arab Group, Peace Talks

JN2901092589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Jan 89 pp 1, 16

[By Mustafa Abu Libdah]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said that the difficult economic phase through which Jordan has passed is over and now behind us. He added that the process of rectifying the financial and social policies, in whose implementation all sectors are efficiently participating, puts our economy in good shape because it is based on the solid foundation of self-reliance.

In a statment to AL-RA'Y and the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH in Al-'Aqabah following his return from Cairo within the framework of visits to several Arab capitals, his majesty sensed that morale is now high in the region as it is receiving and interacting with the various positive changes.

Parallel to confidence in the domestic economic situation, three sisterly states in the East Mediterranean region, in addition to Jordan, have thus far attained an advanced stage of integrated coordination.

The programmed movement to hold an international conference is ready to start after 2 months. The Arab follow-up committee is currently holding encouraging contacts with various Lebanese parties, although this does not undermine the efforts or the need to hold a comprehensive Arab summit.

Regarding the plan to declare a regional formation of the Arab states not affiliated with the GCC or the Maghreb Council, and the expectations that this new formation—which comprises Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR—has reached the stage of drafting the bylaws, His Majesty King Husayn said that these four sisterly states have serious intentions and the coming period will witness a crystallization and declaration of a certain formula aimed at keeping the integrative ties open for other states to join.

His Majesty King Husayn praised the efforts being exerted by the Arab follow-up committee in charge of contacting all sides to the Lebanese crisis. However, his majesty said, "we still believe there is dire need for an Arab summit to crystallize a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis before it is too late." His majesty gave the impression that there is nothing new regarding the date of this summit.

Replying to information disseminated by a British television network regarding a U.S.-Soviet agreement to hold the international conference at the beginning of next year, his majesty the king said it is right to wait for 2 months from now so that the new U.S. Administration can take time to draw up its foreign policy.

Afterward, the mechanism of the programmed international and regional move on the Middle East issue will begin. His majesty said the recent rapid changes regarding the Palestine question encourage optimism over the possibility of substantial detente. These changes have become noticeable even in the Israeli stand—the last obstacle on the path of the international conference. "Otherwise, how can we explain the result of the latest poll which showed that a majority of 54 percent of Israelis now seek peace?" This is a positive change, which his majesty said "began its movement from the bottom upward."

Prime Minister Comments on Talks in Cairo

JN3001070489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
30 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo (PETRA)—Jordan and Egypt hold an identical position with regard to the Palestine problem and its developments and both Amman and Cairo back the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its endeavours to attain a just and peaceful settlement of the problem in all its aspects and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said in Cairo Sunday.

Speaking at the end of the ninth Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher committee meetings, and following a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the prime minister told reporters Jordan and Egypt support the PLO's drive to convene an international conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permament member states.

Al-Rifa'i said Arab-PLO efforts were now aimed at convening such a conference to reach a lasting settlement, and both Egypt and Jordan would work together to help the Palestinian people regain their national rights in their homeland. Al-Rifa'i said that the minutes of the Higher Committee, which he signed along with Egyptian Premier Atif Sidqi, cover all scopes of cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in trade, economic, transport, communication, energy, agriculture, education, information and tourist fields.

The ninth meeting, he added, is bound to give further impetus to the joint efforts that were initiated by His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Rifa'i said that he discussed with Sidqi the broadline of a proposed regional Arab economic group and that certain measures were under way to bring the project into being.

The prime minister said Egyptian workers in Jordan were being treated well, and they feel they are in their own country and face no problem. Agreement has been

reached between Jordan and Egypt on amendments to legislation that can help solve problems related to the wokers' social security benefits and safeguard their rights, Al-Rifa'i said.

Mubarak earlier hosted a breakfast in honour of Al-Rifa'i and the Jordanian delegation and all members of the joint committee were present. Saturday evening Sidqi hosted a banquet in honour of the Jordanian delegation.

Returns From Egypt

JN2901200289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his delegation returned to Amman this evening after a 2-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he met with President Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials. He also chaired Jordan's side to meetings of the ninth session of the higher joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee which concluded in Cairo today. [passage omitted]

Minister on 'Positive Effects' of Economic Policy

JN2901135489 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (PETRA)—Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' has said Jordan's experience following the government's recent economic measures has shown that the economy is strong and capable of overcoming all difficulties and adjusting to new developments.

In an interview with the PETRA correspondent in Cairo, the minister added that since the beginning of this year, the economy has proceeded according to the directives of His Majesty King Husayn to depend on ourselves and turn to productive rather than consumer projects. The positive effects of this trend, the minister noted, will soon be felt by everyone as the citizen gradually turns toward productive work and reduces consumption.

Hamdi al-Tabba' said the limited floating of the Jordanian dinar has been an incentive to increase Jordanian exports to the Arab states and world nations. He said: We are already witnessing the emergence of economic and industrial sectors which could not withstand competition in the local market in the past. These sectors have been revived and are finding markets for their products. The floating of the dinar was inevitable since we were faced with a challenge. However, the dinar stood firm and its price in the past 2 months has begun to stabilize within acceptable margins despite false speculations and the wager by some people that the Jordanian economy would not be able to withstand the flotation.

The minister said that the government continues to issue laws and legislation to encourage investment and the current tendency is to restrict the use of foreign currencies for productive projects. He referred to the excellent investment atmosphere in Jordan, saying it encouraged the influx of funds for the establishment of productive projects.

He also referred to the role of the Industrial Estate Corporation which gives all kinds of facilities to the investor, such as recently cutting the rents of factories in the estate and permitting the owner of a factory to purchase the land on which his factory is built. The minister said 1988 was the corporation's best year since its establishment considering the large number of contracts which have been concluded.

The minister discussed a plan to increase Jordanian exports by 30 percent in the case of certain industrial products. He said that Jordanian products have a good market and that the public and private sector companies are making a joint effort to reach this target. He said: Jordan believes in free economy and private enterprise, although the government sometimes partakes in public sector projects for a short period of time in order to give them necessary backing. Studies are currently under way to switch to privatization—that is, turning government establishments into companies run along commercial lines.

We are studying the possibility of selling the shares of these establishments to individual citizens, so in the end they may become private sector property run along scientific bases. Several special committees are currently laying down the bases and specifications for this procedure.

The minister said that last year was a year of challenge for the Jordanian economy, pointing to government measures in the economic, financial, and monetary fields in order to strengthen the national economy and give a bigger role to the private sector in the field of development.

In the economic field, the minister said, the government adopted several measures in the past 4 months to facilitate industrialization. These measures have had a positive effect on investment in industry.

In the financial field, he continued, the government reviewed its policy concerning taxation and custom duties on raw materials and capital goods. All these goods were exempted of custom duty in order to give incentive to investment. This has been reflected in overall production.

In the monetary field, the minister said, the government issued its monetary decisions to float the dinar and to ban certain luxuries and consumer goods for 1 year, especially since there is a sufficient stock of some of these goods to last more than 1 year. Government policy is to spend hard currencies on more important things.

The minister affirmed that the floating of the dinar will help attract more remittances from Jordanians working abroad so that these remittances can be channeled into investment and production.

The minister said that some Arab states have not paid their financial obligations to Jordan under the Baghdad summit resolutions to enable it to build its economic and military capabilities. This is one of the reasons for adopting the recent economic measures and resorting to self-dependence.

Cabinet To Set Up Higher Planning Commitee

JN2601200789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Following instructions by his majesty the king enshrined in the national development charter emanating from the general development meeting, the cabinet, during its latest session, has decreed the following:

First, to set up a higher planning committee to determine economic and development objectives, review them periodically, and make recommendations to the cabinet on economic, financial, monetary, and investment policies that will promote them.

The committee will take overall charge of coordinating the activity of the corporations directing and executing the economic and development policies in the private and public sectors, assess this activity, and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers concerning measures that guarantee integration and efficiency in the performance of these corporations.

Second, the prime minister will chair the committee and the following will be members: The two deputy prime ministers, finance minister, information minister, planning minister, minister of industry and trade, minister of supply, any competent minister or ministers whenever the agenda features items connected with their departments, the Central Bank governor, and the Army chief of staff.

Third, the higher committee will set up sectoral and regional committees and any other committees to prepare studies as the council's work warrants.

Fourth, the Planning Ministry will assume the technical tasks of the committee's general secretariat.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Arafat, Bethlehem Mayor

JN2301084489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Treading a Thin Line"]

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been subjected to the stringest [as published] scrutiny by the international community ever since the start of the Palestinian-American tlks last month. Most notably, the American government has put Chairman Yasir 'Arafat under the most meticulous political microscope ever to gauge the extent of his adherence to the guidelines set out by Washington as preconditions for such talks.

As for the Israelis, Mr. 'Arafat and his organisation were put under constant surveillance and probing for the slightest deviation from the commitments made by the PLO chairman on behalf of his organisation to the community of nations.

And when the mass media attributed to Mr. 'Arafat threatening words against Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj for proposing a conditional truce between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories all hell broke loose. And even though the PLO leadership did not confirm that it made threats against Mr. Frayj, the smear campaign against the PLO and 'Arafat continued unabated, playing well into Israel's I-told-you-so strategy.

Against this backdrop, and in view of the fact that the Israeli side has been waiting impatiently for the slighest slip of the tongue by the PLO to damage and even destroy its hard won international image as a responsible liberation organisation that practises what it preaches, it would be in order for the Palestinian side to respond to these allegations effectively and swiftly and put to rest the vicious attacks against it.

To be sure, the stakes for the Palestinian side in this matter are indeed high, and not confined to the misguided truce idea put forth by Mr. Frayj and which is admittedly wrong as far as not only the greater majority of the Palestinains but also the Arab and non-Arab Worlds. [sentence as published]

Chairman 'Arafat was not being whimsical when he said that his own life would be in danger if he were even to suggest such a truce idea. But what is also at stake is whether there is room for honest dissent within the Palestinian movement and whether there could be opportunities for free exchange of opinion put forth with good intentions and in good faith.

After all, the PLO has distinguished itself as a democratically constituted organisation where Palestinains would be encouraged to speak out freely and submit proposals that may or may not be acceptable by the Palestinian people at large. The right of each and every Palestinian to engage in free and responsible exchange of views must be protected and assured.

That is why this whole messy situation needs to be dealt with head on with a view to assure the world that while Mayor Frayj's truce idea is totally unacceptable to the Palestinians, for reasons well known to friends and foes alike, he has every right to make his views open on such and other matters touching on the Palestinian destiny.

Syrian-Iranian Intelligence Form Hostages Group

NC0102083489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, a committee comprising officers in the Syrian and Iranian intelligence services was formed during a meeting between Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers last week. The task of this committee is to draw up a plan to release foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

According to the same information, the committee, which includes Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon], met yesterday to discuss this issue, and will visit Beirut in the next few days.

A high-ranking Syrian envoy, whose identity has not been disclosed, headed for Europe last night to meet with U.S. officials on the hostage issue. Reports add that this same envoy had visited Libya a few days ago.

Amal-Hizballah 'Coordination Committee' Meets

NC0102143789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The coordination committee formed by the Amal Movement and Hizballah held its first meeting today at the Syrian observers team headquarters under the auspices of the observers leader, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud.

The committee reviewed practical steps to implement the agreement reached by the two parties and reached agreement on the following:

1. Evacuation of the wounded will start tomorrow, Thursday, at 1000.

2. The joint operations room stipulated in the agreement was formed.

3. The committee will hold its next meeting within 24 hours to draw up the mechanism for withdrawing the fighters from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar, opening the roads in the region, and ending the sieges in preparation for returning people and restoring life to normal, and will continue drawing up the plan to implement all the agreement's points.

Committee sources said that a positive atmosphere prevailed in the meeting, thus stressing the two parties' strong determination to implement the agreement, unite all efforts against the Israeli occupation, and strengthen and escalate the resistance.

Officials React to Amal-Hizballah Agreement

Velayati Sees 'New Chapter'

NC3101174389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Repubic of Iran has distributed the text of a message addressed by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Hizballah and the Amal Movement on the occasion of their signing of the comprehensive agreement in Damascus. It said:

I reiterate that the signing of this reconciliation between Hizballah and Amal must mark the beginning of a new chapter in relations between these two parties. It must also give their supporters a new impression that will do away with doubts and mutual lack of confidence, replacing them with good intentions, understanding, cooperation, and brotherhood so that this reconciliation may be fully implemented. Fighting and bloodshed among Muslims are intolerable.

Nasrallah Notes 'Reservations'

NC3001071989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] At a memorial service in Beirut's southern suburb yesterday, Hizballah leader Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah expressed reservations about three conditions reportedly proposed by the Amal Movement during the Syrian-Iranian talks in Damascus on settling the inter-Shi'ite dispute in Lebanon. Nasrallah said the following are the conditions set by the Amal Movement:

1. Setting up a joint operations room supervised by the Amal Movement for launching attacks against Israel from southern Lebanon.

2. Amal's undertaking security responsibility in the South and handing over to Syria those who assassinated the three Amal leaders in September.

Nasrallah said that Hizballah agrees to a joint operations room provided that its right to launch independent attacks against Israel is recognized. Hizballah, he said, does not object to Amal's shouldering security responsibility in the south. He said, however, that the Amal Movement will not be able to prevent Hizballah from confronting Israeli agents in the area, as he put it. As for the Amal leaders' killers, Nasrallah said that they are not within Hizballah's ranks.

Sees 'Historic Opportunity'

NC0102084589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] His eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah believes that the recent agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement is a real achievement, because it is based on the principle of continuing resistance operations and fighting Israel.

His eminence says the agreement's implementation means an end to the bloodshed which, in itself, represents a sublime goal for us and our society. He added that such implementation will protect the resistance and the Shi'ite society. Asserting that many are offended by the agreement, he said that America, Israel and their agents in East Beirut may intervene to torpedo the agreement and hamper its implementation.

Sayyid Nasrallah said the Muslims and Shi'ites have a historic opportunity to emerge from this most serious crisis, and everybody should endeavor to ensure that this opportunity is not missed.

He concluded that talk about a settlement in the region is nonsense, because the future is that of war rather than of settlement. He said that relying on settlements with Israel cannot mean dignity for Muslims. The only option is resistance, he said.

Al-Tufayli Urges 'Decisive' Stand

NC0102085589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] His eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has congratulated Muslims in general and the Shi'ites in Lebanon and throughout the world in particular on the agreement which was reached between Hizballah and the Amal Movement, under the auspices of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. He asserted that all are serious in implementing this agreement to serve Muslim interests and the resistance.

In an interivew with a correspondent of the Voice of the Oppressed, his eminence said the agreement signed by the two sides is very important, not only for the Shi'ites, but for the entire country, because it will enable Muslims to stand up to conspiracies, fight Israel, and tackle all problems.

Shaykh al-Tufayli said matters are becoming more complicated between Muslims and Phalangists in East Beirut. Hence, he said, developments may require a decisive Muslim stand. Hizballah and Amal will be the forces behind any action or confrontation with the eastern area, he remarked.

Responding to a question about security in southern Lebanon, his eminence asserted that Hizballah has no desire to engage in a contest with any party in this connection. Though we want to preserve the security of our people, it is not in the interest of Hizballah to be in charge of security in any village, he said. He noted, however, that this matter should not be interpreted as a political issue, because security means the protection of public order. Even the Amal Movement does not consider this a political issue, as everybody knows, he concluded.

Hizballah 'Eager' for Restored Shi'ite Unity

NC2801095089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Israel is an absolute evil. Fight it tooth and nail. These words carry revolutionary ideas and a true rejection of the statelet of tyranny, aggression, and inequity. They are also a slogan that decisively ends all controversy, plans, and conferences, and abolishes all proposals and meetings designed to consolidate the foundations of this abominable, satanic entity. This was the ultimate statement and undeniable truth which was clearly enunciated by Musal al-Sadr, imam of the deprived and the tortured. He made it an unchangeable, unamendable issue, regardless of changing circumstances or winds blowing from East and West. The vanished imam, son of the proud Jabal 'Amil, realized from the time that the cancerous gland Israel was implanted in the region that that aggressor statelet posed a great danger—not merely to the Arab region, but to humanity as a whole—because it was a source of evil, a model of corruption, and a center of sedition. [passage omitted]

The struggle against Israel is a sharia injunction and a divine ruling that cannot be interpreted differently or changed. Confronting this evil enemy is a primary duty of Muslims, and this duty cannot be shirked, regardless of difficulties, suffering, and sacrifices. The Islamic resistance is the Islamic revolutionary model which all must emulate because this resistance, through its pious mujahidin, is implementing a sharia injunction, is carrying on a jihad, and is defending the Muslims' honor, pride, and dignity. [passage omitted]

Brother listeners, the Muslims' and strugglers' jihad has dismayed and infuriated the Zionists. They therefore incited sedition and poured oil over the fire in order to widen the wounds among the brothers of one religion and one rank. They discovered that the earnest talks in Damascus will produce a comprehensive agreement and a radical solution to the passing crisis and that this will obstruct their scheme and leave their security subject to penetration at every moment. Lubrani, the so-called coordinator of plots, came forward with inciting statements and used words that are the very core of sedition, in order to arouse feelings and cause frictions. This little devil might imagine that he can, by his malicious and ignoble statements, penetrate people's hearts at an extremely difficult moment. However, he has been disappointed and spurned and cannot attain his despicable designs and desires.

The Islamic resistance and the sons of Hizballah are serious in their intention to emerge from this dark tunnel. They are earnest and sincere in their quest to put a decisive end to what has occurred among the sons of the same house. They are sincere in their desire to be

delivered from this rancorous sedition that has erupted among them, sundering brother from brother. They are earnest in their intention to restore true cohesion among all the strugglers. When this happens, the Zionists will deeply regret their ignoble statements and rumors. With God's will and power, the agreement will take palce and the brothers will emerge triumphant from this whirlpool which has gone on for such a long time. They will emerge triumphant over sedition, division, fragmentation, and perdition. They all ralize that the Zionist enemy and the forces of international arrogance are the only parties which have profited from what has happened. [passage omitted]

We are looking forward to the discussions taking place in Damascus. Our hearts are eager for a solution that will destroy the sedition. We are full of hope that the normal situation will be restored among the sons of the resistance. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Southern Suburb 31 Jan

NC3101205789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Amal and Hizballah gunmen exchanged rockets and gunfire in the Al-Laylakah and Al-'Amrusiyah area [in the southern suburb of Beirut] at about 2105 this evening. Consultations were held immediately and the clashes were stopped. Meanwhile, tension prevails in the area.

Hizballah Radio Denies Clash

NC0102071189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] A security source in Beirut has stated that an exchange of rocket and machinegun fire was registered along the Al-Laylakah and Al-Shiyah axes between East and West Beirut last evening.

This is contrary to news reported by subservient radios to the effect that the clash was between Hizballah and the Amal Movement.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Militia, Opposition Forces

Battle at Tallat al-Shumariyah

NC3001095789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0934 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] It has been reported that men of the resistance attacked a position held by agent Lahd's men in Tallat al-Shumariyah at dawn today. Machineguns and rockets were used in the attack, which caused many casualties in the agent's ranks.

The so-called Voice of Hope radio has admitted the operation, claiming as usual that no one was wounded.

Attacks 'Zionist' Forces

NC3101093589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Resistance fighters have carried out four operations against positions held by the Zionist occupation forces and agent Lahd militia in Al-Shumariyah, south of Al-Dallafah town, and near Kafr Huna.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has announced that eight youths have escaped from a compulsory conscription camp in Al-Majidiyah and have joined an Amal group.

In the meantime, the occupation forces have continued to besiege the town of Shab'a. They have also shelled the outskirts of Libbaya Qilya, and Zillaya, searched the Abu Qamhah-al-Hasbani-Zummarayya axis, and arrested three citizens at the crossing in Zummarayya. They have also stormed and searched the town of Al-Tayyibah.

As for the operations against the enemy and his agents, resistance fighters attacked a position held by the agent Lahd militia near Kafr Huna yesterday morning. They used light and medium-caliber machineguns and hand grenades in the attack. It was reported that the position was destroyed, and the vehicles in it were damaged.

Resistance fighters also attacked with rockets and machineguns a position held by the agents on Tallat Al-Shumariyah at dawn yesterday. They clashed with the agents in the position for approximately 30 minutes. The agent militia's radio admitted the attack. It reported that several rockets fired from RPG's and several machinegun bullets hit the position, wounding a man and destroying a machinegun.

Soon afterward, the agent militia carried out a wide-scale search operation in which Zionist tanks and helicopters participated. The operation continued until about 1000 yesterday.

In a similar development, resistance fighters used rockets to attack a position held by the agents south of Dallafah at dawn yesterday. It was reported from the area that two men in the position were wounded and a vehicle was damaged. It was also learned that the agent Lahd militia and occupation forces carried out a wide-scale search in the area.

Meanwhile, the Zionist acts of aggression against the resisting areas have continued. It was reported yesterday morning that the Zionist forces carried out a wide-scale search operation in the Abu Qamlah-al-Hasbani-Zummarayya axis. During the approximately 90-minute operation, machineguns were fired intensively on the sides of the roads. After the operation, the agent Lahd militia reopened the crossing point in Zummarayya. The so-called militia security forces took stringent security

measures at the crossing. Scores of pedestrians were interrogated in a side room. The militias then arrested three citizens and took them to the Al-Khiyam detention camp.

It was also reported yesterday morning that a joint force consisting of enemy and agent personnel stormed the Al-Tayyibah town. They carried out a wide-scale search operation during which they interrogated citizens.

Meanwhile, the resistance town of Shab'a is still besieged. According to people coming from Al-'Urqub area, Lahd's militiamen are preventing the inhabitants of Shab'a from leaving the town, threatening to open fire at any citizen seen outside the town.

It has also been learned that agent militiamen have prevented the citizens who are outside the occupied area from returning to their homes. Most of these are women. It has been said that strict instructions have been given to the militiamen manning the Zummaraya and Kafr Tibnit roadblocks not to allow the inhabitants of Shab'a to enter the town if they tried to enter it via the mountain footpaths. The militia men were instructed to shoot and kill such people without prior warning.

In the meantime, UNIFIL's Norwegian forces have taken stronger measures inside and around the town of Shab'a to protect the inhabitants. The town is suffering from a supply and fuel crisis, according to reports. It has also been reported that the temperature drops to 2 degrees below zero at night in Shab'a and neighboring areas, and that the government school has been closed since its director Yahya 'Ali was arrested and placed in Al-Khiyam detention camp together with teacher 'Abdallah 'Ali Hashim and a number of the town's inhabitants.

Attacks Against Lahd Continued

NC3101111089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A resistance group detonated an explosive device as a motorized patrol of agent Lahd militiamen passed on the Al-Shumariyah-al-Qantarah road at dawn today. A vehicle was damaged, and those in it were killed or wounded. Soon afterward, a search operation was carried out in the area.

The agent's radio reported the operation without referring to casualties.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are taking place on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines between the positions held by nationalist forces and those held by agent Lahd militiamen. Various types of automatic weapons and RPG's are being used in the clashes.

Rockets Fired at Lahd Position

NC0102104389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Resistance fighters fired four rockets in the direction of a position held by agent Lahd's militia in Zummarayya late last night. The position was hit and fire was seen billowing from it. The agents retaliated by shelling the area of Al-Jabal al-Awsat, Qati' Mimis, and the outskirts of Mazra'at 'Ayn Qinya. They also raked the hills overlooking the position with large-caliber machineguns.

Lahd's radio reported the operation this morning but did not mention losses.

January 16 Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post

NC2801122689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has declared that one of its groups fired a rocket at a Syrian occupation army position in the Al-Zahiriyah area in Tripoli at 0200 today. According to the organization, personnel from the Syrian special units were wounded.

9 February Group Claims Attack

NC2901124189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has announced that one of its groups detonated an explosive device near a Syrian occupation forces post in the military beach area of West Beirut last night. According to the organization, the explosion injured three Syrian soldiers.

Meanwhile, reports received by Radio Free Lebanon state that, following recent operations against their positions, the Syrian occupation forces took strict security measures today, particularly in West Beirut and Al-Biqa', increasing the number of personnel at checkpoints and in buildings adjacent to their posts.

Israeli Planes Conduct 'Reconnaissance Sorties'

NC3101194089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been conducting reconnaissance sorties over the area east of Sidon up as far as the Iqlim al-Kharrub coast since 2040 today. The planes are firing flares to illuminate military positions in the area. In the meantime, antiaircraft fire is being heard.

Fly Over South, Al-Shuf

NC0102093089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the South and Al-Shuf shortly before 1000 this morning.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Lebanese Developments
JN3101174389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The cabinet met at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

The cabinet heard a political review from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', in which he explained the positive results of the comprehensive agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He discussed the mission of the seven-member Arab committee, which is meeting in Tunis. He explained the outcome of a number of meetings, contacts, and developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

The cabinet discussed a number of matters presented to it and made appropriate decisions on them.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Amal-Hizballah Accord
JN3101100289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah is a positive step toward bolstering the unity of Lebanese ranks and checking the Israeli schemes that are aimed at dismembering Lebanon and fragmenting its forces.

The paper says: The Lebanese nationalist factions' unity should be aimed at fortifying Lebanon against conspiracies of partition and hegemony.

The paper explains that yesterday's accord differs from all other agreements for many reasons. The most important reason is that it was born in Damascus, and that it combines political and technical aspects with organizational content. Therefore, this accord is more capable of creating the new situation required by the nationalist action in confronting the Israeli enemy.

The paper asserts that the Damascus agreement constitutes a national course whose objective is to find the factors of force and impregnability of the nationalist ranks, to create the circumstances that would provide elements of action to the nationalist resistance against occupation, and consequently to safeguard Arab Lebanon's affiliation.

Commentary Urges 'Wait and See' Attitude With Bush
JN2801155489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Bush administration has gotten off to an energetic start, obviating the need for a warmup used by a good many former administrations. Obviously, the American President is in a position to do away with file scanning and briefings, given his long association with former President Ronald Reagan as his second in command. President Bush's contacts and moves and the statements he made at his first news conference in office show him to be approaching foreign policy with a grasp of the objectives he set for himself.

President Bush is taking over against the backdrop of Soviet initiatives that have, to quote some Western observers, amazed the West and that a NATO official called overwhelmingly generous. Inevitably, the Middle East will receive more than cursory attention from the U.S. Administration. The reasons: U.S.-USSR relations are ever improving; the two nations are insulating their bilateral relations from the fallout of regional conflicts; the United States and Israel maintain a very special relationship; the United States is keen to preserve its oil and other interests in the Arab world; and the Americans have traditionally sought to take sole charge of the resolution of regional problems and to relegate the Soviets to a less than effective role and prevent them from gaining from any potential settlement.

Bush's statements in his first news conference contained clear signs that the Middle East, where interests are interwoven and entangled, is not low on his list of priorities. This is not to say that the Bush administration has worked out something unlike the policies, postures, and conceptions of the outgoing administration. It is still early for a categorization of the George Bush administration's Middle East policies. Otherwise, we would be led into the illusion that the planks of the American Middle East and global policies have undergone a change. We must wait and see whether the Bush administration will introduce any new elements into Washington's Middle East policies.

It is natural that the American President, who had a long telephone conversation with President Mikhail Gorbachev and who will soon make a trip to the PRC, can also get in touch with the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict before he airs his conceptions and plan for the region. Observers will not be off the mark when they point out that Israel's rulers stand alone in hoping that President Bush will be less than energetic where the Middle East is concerned, will not join forces with the Soviets in promoting an international conference, and will not establish exploratory contacts with Arab parties. This is because Israel feels that the status quo cannot be better for it and because Israel would perpetuate such blind American support for the Zionist state that it would seem as if Washington's Middle East policies were formulated by Israel and executed by the United States.

Any American attempt to edge closer to the Arab position or UN resolutions and principles of justice is seen by Israel's rulers as a drawing away from them and their shortsighted, clumsy, belligerent policies, which have come to be a liability for U.S. policies toward the Arab countries, the USSR, and the United Nations. To date,

the Arabs have not been stinting in giving American administrations the openings to extricate themselves from the Israeli stranglehold. Nor did they withhold cooperation in the interest of a political settlement leading to a just, comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. If the Arab cooperation has yet to bear fruit, the blame must be laid at the door of U.S. administrations rather than that of the Arabs. It is well to recall President Reagan's handling of a high ranking Arab delegation that explained to him the Fes Arab summit and his administration's approach to its resolutions.

The American President is now fully conversant with the history of Arab-American relations, the future of which hinges on him. The Arabs, who want nothing beyond the recovery of their occupied territory and confiscated rights, know that no one is about to give them a free gift. Likewise, they know that no one will voluntarily return to them their occupied land and usurped rights. Further, the Arabs know that they will have to leave no stone unturned and to accommodate all serious international efforts to build a just peace based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and resolutions. The closer the Arab ranks, the clearer the goals and vision, and the firmer the determination to make sacrifices on behalf of the pan-Arab cause, the greater the odds to influence others. Against such a background, calls being made for Arab solidarity assume special importance. Any call to set up axes or blocs or split Arab ranks and divert Arab efforts away from the political, diplomatic, economic, and other struggles to achieve a minimum of the goals acceptable on a pan-Arab level will neither ward off dangers posed to the pan-Arab cause nor bring Arab countries any closer to pan-Arab objectives.

Al-Shar' Receives Call From Spanish Minister

JN2901071089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call from the Spanish foreign affairs minister in the latter's capacity as current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers.

The Spanish minister voiced the interest of the EC member states in Syria's role in the region. He hoped that the EC troika—comprising the foreign ministers of Spain, France, and Greece—would be able to meet His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad during its visit to Damascus on 12 February.

For his part, Faruq al-Shar' welcomed the EC troika's visit and informed the Spanish minister in a telephone conversation held yesterday evening of his excellency the president's agreement to meet the EC troika.

Al-Ahmar Receives Kurdish Party Official

JN2901180089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jan (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Sami 'Abd al-Rahman, leader of the Kurdish Democratic People's Party in Iraq.

They discussed relations betweeen the two parties, developments in the nationalist Iraqi action, and moves of various Iraqi key figures and forces to unify their ranks in order to save the Iraqi people from the harassments made by the fascist Iraqi regime and to restore Iraq's nationalist and liberation role.

Afghanistan

Soviet Troop Withdrawal To Be Completed by 3 Feb

BK0102081089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, Soviet troops' withdrawal by air is continuing on a large scale and it is estimated that most of the withdrawal will be completed by Friday [3 February]. The biggest Soviet air base at Shindan in western Afghanistan is also being vacated and Kabul regime troops are replacing the Soviet troops there. The Soviet troops are being assembled at this base from where they are being air lifted to Moscow. Diplomatic sources say one battalion of the Soviet troops will remain in Kabul until 15 February and represent the Soviet Union at ceremonies marking the end of the 9-year Soviet military intervention.

Meanwhile, Soviet-Afghan attacks on civilian areas have severely intensified killing or injuring hundreds of civilians.

Soviet Commander Gromov Gives News Conference

LD3101173789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A news conference was held this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry's Storey Palace on the completion of internationalist duties of the limited military units of the Soviet Union in the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to the BIA military section's report, the news conference was attended by domestic and foreign journalists and UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] representatives. Major General Gromov, general commander of the limited Soviet military units in Afghanistan, spoke about the completion of the units' internationalist duties, and of their assistance and cooperation to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan for the defense of the territorial integrity of the country and gains of the revolution. He also answered questions raised by the journalists.

Confirms Salang Fighting

BK0102035689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 1 (AFP)—The top Soviet commander in Afghanistan on Tuesday [31 January] said his troops had taken part in recent offensives to clear the Salang highway, the country's major road link to the Soviet Union.

But the commander, General Boris Gromov, said he could not confirm reports by Western diplomats that Soviet reprisal bombings during the fighting had killed hundreds of civilians.

Western diplomats in Islamabad, quoting Soviet sources in Kabul, said that the Soviet Army would begin a massive airlift this week, completing its withdrawal from Afghanistan at least nine days ahead of a February 15 deadline agreed to in Geneva last April.

The diplomats also said that the Soviet Army had stepped up reprisal offensives against Afghan rebels and civilians so as "to leave broad destruction in their wake".

Afghan rebels shelled the airport at the southern city of Qandahar, destroying one Soviet-built Afghan plane and injuring two people, Radio Kabul said in a report monitored in Islamabad.

Resistance sources in Islamabad said the attack took place Sunday [29 January].

They said between 30 and 40 Soviet planes have been landing at the Qandahar airport daily to reinforce troops and that some 100 guerrillas in the area had been killed in the past few days from Soviet bombing.

At a news conference at the Afghan Foreign Ministry Tuesday, Gen. Gromov confirmed that his artillery and aviation units had assisted the Afghan Army in recent offensives to clear the Salang highway, Kabul's lifeline to the Soviet frontier. They would do so again, he said, if the rebels attacked while Soviet forces were withdrawing.

Asked to confirm Western reports that hundreds of civilians had been killed in Soviet reprisal bombings, he said: "I cannot say that civilian losses were very high." But he said that mujahidin guerrillas led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud had suffered "heavy losses and will not be able to recover very soon."

Moscow Radio said Tuesday that Soviet and Afghan troops have now cleared the Salang highway, blocked for the past week by Afghan rebels. Quoting the Afghan news agency BAKHTAR, it said the road was now "open to traffic."

Replying to U.S. State Department allegations that his forces were carrying out massive air and missile attacks as part of a "scorched earth policy," Gen. Gromov said: "No U.S. State Department official has ever visited the area."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said in Washington on Monday: "The Soviets continue what might even be called a scorched earth policy, as they continue very, very intensive air activity."

Gen. Gromov said that Mr. Mas'ud had been warned "that if he continued to cut the road and food convoys destined for Kabul, we would use combat operations" to clear it. The rebels nevertheless launched an offensive on January 23, he said, and Soviet and Afghan forces hit back at Mr. Mas'ud's main bases and munition depots.

Gen. Gromov said he hoped the guerrillas "will adopt a reasonable policy," but if they did not "we are ready for combat operations during our withdrawal through the Salang Pass."

A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said: "Indications are there that the Soviet troops will be out of Kabul by February 4," coinciding with the arrival of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Islamabad.

The spokesman said he believed the last Soviet contingents would cross the border by February 15.

In Peshawar, the seven-party resistance alliance based there was discussing whether to invite Shi'ite ministers of former Afghanistan King Zahir Shah to a planned council meeting in order to patch up differences with resistance leaders based in Iran, resistance sources said.

The former king, who is living in exile in Rome, is opposed by fundamentalist mujahidin parties in Peshawar. Fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar visited Iran last week to convince the Tehran-based rebels to participate in the council, called shura, set for February 10.

Other sources said the biggest Soviet airbase at Shindand in western Afghanistan was being evacuated and Soviet troops replaced by Afghan troops.

In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry announced that all diplomatic staff from its embassy in Kabul had been evacuated to New Delhi, except for the charge d'affaires, who would leave on Wednesday. Italy was the last EEC country to close its embassy in Afghanistan.

USSR Gosplan Chairman Maslyukov Returns Home

LD3101223589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The senior Soviet delegation headed by Yuriy Maslyukov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee, left yesterday afternoon for their country. The delegation arrived in Kabul 2 days ago for a working visit and held a series of talks and meetings with the Afghan leadership on bilateral issues and the development of economic cooperation.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by a number of senior Afghan officials and the Soviet ambassador in Kabul.

Iran's Velayati 'Overt Intervention' Criticized

LD0102074789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 31, BAKHTAR—Differences between the heads of "seven alliance" [words indistinct] "eight alliance" based in Iran has become intensified with the elapse of every day. This has disturbed the Pakistani military men who are out to exercise pressure for their unification in order to keep war in Afghanistan as per their wishes. However, these threats and menaces have led to intensify the conflicts between the groups and made Sebghatullah Mojadeddi to confess, similarly, the differences between "seven-alliance and eight alliance" over the formation of a so-called interim council have escalated.

Karim Khalili, a spokesman of "eight alliance" stationed in Iran earlier announced that the formation of the council is senseless without the existence of a political program and rejected it. But, he later yielded to the formation of the council owing to the pressure exerted by the Iranian authorities. Soon, differences on the division of positions in the "council" among "seven-alliance" and "eight alliance" came out which led to the visit by Sebghatullah Mojadeddi as well as Gulbuddin Hikmatyar to Iran in futile.

As a result of it both Pakistan and Iran became disappointed and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of Iran, resorted to irresponsible pronouncements which, in fact, is considered as an overt intervention into the internal affairs of the country.

For instance, Radio BBC on Jan. 29, quoting [words indistinct] reported that Iran is trying to break the deadlock which has come about between the "seven-alliance" and "eight alliance" based in Iran and Pakistan about the formation of an "interim state" in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Quoting Velayati, radio BBC adds that he has completely refuted the rule of Muhammad Zahir, former king of Afghanistan, in the future and said that the people of Afghanistan are not prepared to accept him.

It should be pointed out that the cessation of war in Afghanistan and the fate of the people of Afghanistan can be determined by the Afghan people alone through political dialogues and the complete implementation of the Geneva agreements. Thus, nobody and no power can play with the destiny of the people of Afghanistan. The destiny of the Afghan people can be determined by themselves alone.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 30-31 Jan

LD3101182189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] An authoritative source of the Afghan Armed Forces reported to the military section of BIA on the military situation in the country over the past 24 hours.

There was calm throughout the country militarily. Armed Forces units and detachments acheived successes in some provinces, the details of which follow:

Parvan: As a result of a special guard operation in the area between Tajik village and Ahangran village in Jabal-os Saraj District, 20 mortar shells, 10 boxes of

DShK ammunition, 20 hand grenades, 50 boxes of light rocket launcher homing units, 1 set of radios, and 7 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition were seized.

Nangarhar, Laghman: As a result of a mopping up operation, 16 extremists—including Sayyed Faqir, their ringleader, and 'Aziz, deputy ringleader—were eliminated; 2 people were seriously wounded. Missiles, one mortar, two recoilless guns, and a weapons and ammunition depot were destroyed. In other areas of the provinces the situation is normal.

Paktia and Ghazni: The extremists fired at Ghazni city with heavy arms. No damage was reported. They also fired at the towns of Khowst, Nader Shah Kowt, Lakan, and Jaji Meydan. There was no loss of life or no injuries. In the rest of Paktia Province there was calm and there were no military incidents.

Qandahar: The enemy fired from a long distance with heavy weapons on the periphery of Qandahar airport. One plane was damaged and two officers were injured. One U.S. radio was captured in a mopping-up operation near Mirza Muhammad Khan Qala in the eastern part of Qandahar. As many as 31 vehicles, 2 [word indistinct] 1 mortar, and 2 machine guns were destroyed.

Herat: The general military situation is calm. One extremist vehicle was destroyed by a mine planted by a rival group in Golran District. Five people were killed and 20 others were wounded.

Baghlan: The new town and old town of Baghlan came under extremist heavy weaponry fire. There was no damage.

Mujahidin Detail 'Savage Soviet Bombings'

BK0102104289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 1 (AFP)—At least 600 Afghan civilians have been killed in bombing raids by Soviet and Kabul government planes along the Salang highway linking the Afghan capital and the Soviet Union, Afghan rebel sources said here Wednesday [1 February].

More than 2,000 civilians were injured in the bombings last week in the Salang Pass area, 80 kilometers (48 miles) north of Kabul, they said.

The fighting, which had tapered off last week in the strategic northeastern garrison city of Jalalabad and in southeastern Qandahar city, seemed to be increasing again since Tuesday, mujahidin sources said.

The leader of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami group, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said the bodies of at least 600 Afghan civilians had been found by mujahidin along the strategic highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union.

The bombings were especially intense at the southern end of the Salang tunnel and at the south of the Panjsher Valley northeast of Kabul, he said.

The exact number of people killed could not be determined as "certain regions had been completely destroyed by savage Soviet bombings," Jamiyat-e Eslami spokesman 'Abdul Rahim said.

"Seventy people were killed in Khinj Village alone and the bombings are still going on," a statement by the Afghan resistance said.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government has accused the Jamiyat-e Eslami rebels of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of trying to block the Salang highway leading to the Soviet Union.

The mujahidin have said Soviet convoys were transporting arms to the regular Afghan Army not just urgently needed food for the population of Kabul, sources here said. [passage omitted]

A munitions depot exploded Sunday near the city of Jalalabad killing 25 Afghan soldiers. Three bombs exploded in central Jalalabad Saturday, at the airport and at a power plant near the Indian consulate, according to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA). Fighting was still going on in Nangarhar Province near Jalalabad.

The mujahidin have said they were responsible for a rocket attack Saturday on installations at Qandahar airport that hit an airplane.

The top Soviet commander in Afghanistan, General Boris Gromov, said Tuesday that his troops had taken part in recent offensives to clear the Salang highway, but could not confirm reports by Western diplomats that Soviet reprisal bombings had killed hundreds of civilians.

Mujahidin Leaders Discuss Power Transfer Plans

PM3101114489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 89 pp 1-2

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Mujahidin Political Plan for Taking Over Power in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Before leaving Peshawar for Tehran, Afghan Islamic Party leader Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Afghan mujahidin alliance leaders have unanimously agreed on a plan to form a shura and that the "constituent" shura, which is expected to be formed before the Soviets complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan February 15, will be temporary. The permanent elected shura will be formed in the summer. [passage omitted]

Dr Muhammad Anwar, an Islamic party leader and member of the elections committee, emphasized that the seven leaders have approved the formation of a "shura

for central elections" which will enjoy the necessary powers to hold elections and will be independent from the command council (comprising the seven leaders).

Dr Muhammad Anwar added that the committee has actually begun to prepare for the elections, defining electoral constituencies and printing ballots. The committee will receive nomination applications from all parties and will not confine participation to the seven parties alone. Small parties as well as the Iran-based alliance will also be able to take part. [passage omitted]

Sayyed Nurullah Ahmad, deputy to Shaykh Burhanuddin Rabbani and interior minister in the provisional mujahidin government, emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the council will convene in Peshawar and that the Pakistani Government has agreed to host it. He said that the reason for delaying the council meeting is the mujahidin's desire to ensure that the largest possible number of the front's leaders attend the council. But he did not deny the fact that Shi'ite mujahidin have requested that the number of seats allocated to them be increased to 120. He said a delegation is in Iran negotiating this matter and is expected to return today.

Sayyed Nurullah Ahmad did not rule out the possibility of increasing the allocation of seats to 120 to the parties outside the mujahidin alliance to accommodate small Shi'ite and Sunni parties not represented in the alliance.

The appointed council's first task will be to grant confidence to the transitional government of Engineer Ahmad Shah so it can perform its role as a legitimate government until the elected shura forms a permanent government. [passage omitted]

If Kabul is liberated before July the new government will move there immediately. It has been agreed that the post of chief of state will be assumed by the seven-member command council until the results of the elections are announced. Then the appointed shura and the command council will be dissolved, leaving the majority in the elected shura to form the government and appoint the president of the Islamic republic of Afghanistan.

Commentary Critcizes Rebels' Refusal To Negotiate
LD3101122289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] In line with the national reconciliation policy and in order to end the war and restore peace in the country, the Republic of Afghanistan has called on the opposition commanders many times and through various means, such as sending written and verbal messages, to reach an understanding and hold talks on a peaceful solution. For example, the holder of the highest state office, esteemed President Najibullah, sent one of these commanders, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, written messages urging a halt to the fratricide for the sake of national interests. He urged him to think, above all, about his national responsibility as a noble Afghan. Esteemed President Najibullah told Ahmad Shah on 16 May that if he were interested, talks could be conducted with him in any country where a visit by the Afghan president is possible.

The purpose of Esteemed President Najibullah's visit to UN headquarters was to convey to the world the call of peace and national reconciliation. Therefore, it can easily be understood that the Republic of Afghanistan has not refrained from any action leading to the maintenance of peace in the country, including the Salang highway, which is the backbone of the country's economic lifeline and for the provision of materials needed for the life of our compatriots.

However, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud continued his killing, bloodshed, predation, and looting of public property, disregarding all these positive measures by the government. As a result, the people of the country, and especially the residents of Kabul, have faced great economic distress and shortages of foodstuffs and fuel. This, by itself, demonstrates that the armed extremist groups do not care about their people and national interests. They only want to achieve the political aims of aliens and their foreign supporters in Afghanistan.

The fact that the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance is in the service of Pakistan's military and intelligence is not concealed, even by the leaders of the seven-party alliance. For instance, quoting Sebghatullah Mojadedi, chairman of the seven-party alliance, the Voice of America recently reported that he complained at a public meeting in the city of Peshawar about General Hamid Gul, chief of Pakistani military intelligence. He said that Pakistan's military intelligence has great influence among the extremist groups and has given them the means to achieve their goals in Afghanistan. This bitter reality, which hurt Afghan pride and the national sentiment of any real Afghan, are divulged at a time when the leaders of the armed opposition groups claim to be patriotic and even hypocritically claim that they send foodstuffs to Kabul and Jalalabad to alleviate the people's problems. The people can no longer be deceived. Now our people know well what those who are in the service of Pakistani intelligence and who condemn their fellow countrymen to hunger and death by blocking the highway and looting public property, think about filling people's stomachs.

In line with the national reconciliation policy, and the basis of Afghan traditions and the tenets of the holy religion of Islam, and in line with all civil and international laws, the Republic of Afghanistan now has done everything possible to bring war and bloodshed to an end and to restore peace in our war-torn country. It is because of this policy that the last units of the Soviet Armed Forces are successfully returning to their country. Now their is no pretext or cause for the continuation of the fratricidal war and sacrifice or for renewed destruction in Afghanistan. In this situation, if the extremists

behave contrary to Afghan traditions, the tenets of the holy religion of Islam, and the national interests and requirements of the oppressed people of Afghanistan, and if they embark on acts of terror, murder, and looting people's property, the Republic of Afghanistan and its people have not only the right, but the obligation to rid the people and the country of their evil, using all the means at their disposal.

India

France's Mitterrand Arrives in Delhi 1 Feb

BK0102052989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The French president, Mr Francois Mitterrand, arrived in New Delhi this morning to a warm and ceremonial welcome. He was received at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] among others by the president, Mr Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; his cabinet colleagues; and the diplomatic corps.

Mr Mitterrand inspected an interservices guard of honor as 21 guns boomed in salute. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including several ministers.

The French president is scheduled to have talks with the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. Another highlight of his visit is inauguration of the Festival of France in India at Bombay jointly by Mr Mitterrand and Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr Mitterrand will also be visiting Calcutta where he will present a Legion of Honor award to the renowned film maker Satiyajit Ray.

Meets With Venkataraman

BK0102071489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The French president, Mr Francois Mitterrand, arrived in New Delhi this morning to a warm and ceremonial welcome. He was received at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] among others by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his cabinet colleagues.

Mr Mitterrand inspected an interservices guard of honor as 21 guns boomed in salute.

Speaking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhawan, Mr Mitterrand expressed the hope that his talks with the Indian leaders will contribute greatly to world peace.

Answering a question on Kampuchea, the French president said it is for the Kampucheans to manage their own affairs as far as they can. He said his government wishes that an agreement be found for independence and sovereignty of Kampuchean.

Mr Mitterrand said it is for the Kampucheans and Prince Sihanouk to hasten the process of negotiations. He asserted that Prince Sihanouk is certainly seeking peace and not breaking the peace process.

The French president, Mr Mitterrand, immediately on his arrival in New Delhi called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The two leaders were together for about 30 minutes. They discussed the growing Indo-French relations and matters of mutual interest. The subjects discussed include transfer of technology, exports of Indian commodities to EEC countries, North-South dialogue, new world economic order and problems of developing countries. The two presidents also discussed the cultural relations between the two countries and influence of French art and the epic Mahabharat on the people of the two countries.

President Venkataraman recalled his visit to France in June 1986 when he participated in the closing function at the Festival of India in France.

Foreign Secretary, Envoy to USSR Appointed

BK3101134089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr S.K. Singh, is to be new foreign secretary. His term will be for 2 years. He takes over from Mr K.P.S. Menon on the 16th of next month. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

Mr S.K. Singh is the Indian ambassador in Islamabad since August 1985. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1954 and held several important assignments during his long and illustrious career spanning over 34 years.

According to official sources in New Delhi, Mr Alfred Gonsalves, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, will be the new Indian ambassador in Moscow. His term will also be for 2 years.

Tibetan Exiles Warn PRC on Panchen Lama Heir

BK0102072689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 1 (AFP)—The Tibetan government-in-exile Wednesday asked China not to meddle in the selection of the successor to the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second-highest spiritual leader who died Saturday.

"Any political appointment will not be acceptable to the Tibetan people," the chief spokesman for the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the six million Tibetans, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

His comments followed reports from Beijing that China's State Council (Cabinet) was reserving the final say on how the successor to the Panchen Lama would be selected.

"Such an appointment will not be acceptable," spokesman Tashi Wangdi said. "There are very well established procedures... that have to be followed."

Under Tibetan Buddhist belief, the Panchen Lama has been reincarnated in a boy, born sometime after his predecessor's death from a heart attack Saturday in Tibet's Xigase town at the age of 50.

Several years could pass before the complicated selection process involving oracles, visions and horoscopes is completed.

Observers in Beijing said the decision to involve China's Cabinet in the picture meant that the legitimacy of the new Panchen Lama would be invested de facto by Chinese communist authorities, not by the Dalai Lama.

Under Tibetan tradition, the Dalai Lama—the supreme authority in Tibetan Buddhism—would have to approve whoever is chosen as the new Panchen Lama. He has lived in exile in India since 1959 and rejects Chinese rule over Tibet.

Tibetan sources here said a detailed statement on the subject, possibly by the Dalai Lama, would be issued in a day or two.

Mr. Wangdi said the Dalai Lama's Tibetan government-in-exile, based in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamsala, had sought permission from the Chinese Government to visit Tibet to offer prayers for the dead Panchen Lama.

"We made the request to the Chinese Embassy here," he said. "So far there has been no reaction."

Mr. Wangdi could not say how many people would go to Tibet if permission was given. A Chinese Embassy spokesman said the request had been forwarded to the Chinese Government, but there had been no response yet.

Some 100,000 Tibetans live in exile across India.

Iran

Republic 'Ready' To Resume Ties With Saudi Arabia

LD0102124889 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1 IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not rule out the possibility of resumption of Iraq-Iran war but believes "such a possibility is not very high" because in his opinion "neither Iraqi economy nor its people could stand the event."

"If Iraq failed to submit to the (U.N.) Resolution (598) and did not leave our territory, then we would not wait and take action."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who is also acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces also says Iran is ready to resume diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia and that "we are having indirect talks with them (the Saudis) to overcome the problem."

He made the remarks in a question-answer discussion with participants at a 3-day international Islamic thought conference after he addressed its concluding session Tuesday night.

Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran in August last year after its forces gunned down hundreds of hajj pilgrims in Mecca, mostly Iranians for holding anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli demonstrations.

"Hajj must cease to be a hollow worship and should instead be turned to an active and exhilirating assembly for the Islamic world to raise its issues and problems."

On restoration of Tehran-Paris ties, Rafsanjani said "Our policy is not based on isolation. Except with the naturally illegitimate Zionist regime and the racist South African regime, in other cases we have not taken the initiative in severing ties as we believe we will get nothing out of isolation."

In his address to the conference Rafsanjani said publicity in the Islamic world needed new means and methods and that religious leaders should not neglect employment of new technical phenomena such as television and other scientific achievements.

"There is firm logic behind the message of Islam but this logic must reach the ears of Muslims and non-Muslims through best means," he told the foreign guests.

He said global message of Islam should be coupled with realism and that such a conformity will be possible only in a system of government like the Islamic Republic of Iran because it enjoys Islamic executive foundations.

He also expressed hope that centers would be set up in the Islamic world to train artists and researchers so that Islamic thought would be spread throughout the world by modern scientific means and methods.

Meanwhjile, in an eight-article resolution, the Islamic thought conference called for unity in Islamic world and denounced political and military interventions of big powers in the Islamic world and violation of rights and freedom of Muslims and the oppressed.

It also reiterated that Islamic propagation should be based on Koranic teachings away from racial, tribal and group discriminations.

Tens of articles and speeches were presented to the conference on Islamic propagation and the need to make Muslims and non-Muslims aware of Islamic values, by 88 scholars from 40 countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Unsure About Presidency

LD3101175289 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani says he is not still sure if he will be a candidate for the next presidential elections.

"I have neither denied nor confirmed it," he said in reply to a question posed to him in a question-answer debate after he addressed an international seminar on women here Monday.

Presidential elections are to be held in Iran in August, the fifth since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, after the office of leadership, the president is the highest official in the country. He has the responsibility for implementing the Constitution, coordinating the three branches of power, and acting as head of the executive, "except in matters directly concerned with (the office of) the leadership."

The president is elected for a four-year term by the direct vote of the people. His re-election for a successive term is permissible only once, as stipulated in Article 114 of the Constitution.

Gorbachev Calls Khomeyni Message 'Peaceful' Sign

LD3101115689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, referred to the recent message of Imam Khomeyni as a sign of peaceful relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. According to a Central News Unit report the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad [as heard] by issuing a press statement, while announcing this news, added: Soviet leader Gorbachev, after receiving Imam Khomeyni's message and after talks with his holiness's envoy, submitted a full report on the outcome of these talks to the Soviet Communist Party Politburo.

The press statement adds: The USSR and Iran will remain two good neighbors, respecting each other's interests and will try to continue the active cooperation.

Fadlallah: Amal, Hizballah Unite Against Zionism

LD0102101289 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The peace accord between the two warring Lebanese Hizballah and Amal forces will work as a uniting factor for the Shi'ite groups in fighting Zionism and imperialism, said Al-'Allamah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in a press conference here Tuesday evening.

Fadlallah here for the 10-Day-Dawn ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, told reporters that the two Shi'ite groups should together work out a plan to encounter the Zionist regime and its supporter—the U.S.

The Lebanese alim hailed the role played by Iran and Syria in bringing peace between Amal and Hizballah.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an unscheduled visit to Damascus last week helped the two Lebanese Shi'ite groups to sign an accord on termination of fighting.

Fadlallah ruled out the possibility that the Zionist regime may attack Lebanon in the near future. He told reporters that such an attack would endanger American interests in the region and, therefore, the U.S. would not approve of such a move. However, he added, the Zionist regime may do so on its own without U.S. consent.

He concluded that the long-standing strategical differences of the two Shi'ite Muslim groups should not necessarily hinder formation of a common stand between them.

Meanwhile, a report from Beirut Tuesday said that supporters of the both groups rejoiced the end of fighting between the two groups.

CSSR Prime Minister Adamec Continues Visit

Comments on 'Positive' Talks

LD3101104689 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—The prime minister of Czechoslovakia Ladislav Adamec said before leaving Tehran that his talks with Iranian officials were positive.

He added that principal agreement had been reached between the two sides in all fields.

Adamec and his accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, a number of civil and military officials, as well as ambassadors and diplomats residing here.

During his three day stay here, Adamec also met with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Meets With Velayati

LD3101212289 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Czech Premier Ladislaw Adamec who departed today had a brief meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning, where he said "we consider Iran as a partner and no obstacle exists in the way of expansion of bilateral relations."

Velayati who arrived last night from Damascus after successfully resolving Lebanon's Amal-Hizballah discord, termed the Adamec's visit "as a turning point in bilateral relations."

In related news Czech Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba who formed part of Adamec's high-powered delegation discussed expansion of cooperation with Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Ali Shamkhani and Acting Commerce Minister Abdol Hoseyn Vahhaj in separate meetings today.

Adamec, Musavi Interviewed

LD3102125989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Before leaving Tehran this morning, the Czechoslovak premier [Adamec], in an interview granted to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referred to the outcome of his talks with the Iranian authorities as positive. He said: During my talks with Iranian officials we reached favorable agreement in every field. At the conclusion of his interview he said that the two countries' views on international issues are similar, and this will be the basis for the expansion and strengthening of the two countries' ties.

Our country's prime minister, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in an interview with the Voice and Vision on the outcome of the Czechoslovak premier's visit, said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We evaluate this visit as being very good. We achieved some very good results. We had lengthy political discussions on regional issues, the Middle East, the war, the Afghanistan issues, our relations with the socialist countries, developments in the eastern bloc, and the current changes in Western countries. [passage indistinct]

All these issues were discussed, and there was a good understanding for cooperation in international organizations, which we hope will reach fruition in the wake of this visit. A memorandum of understanding was signed in cultural fields, thus making it possible for us to have good relations in the exchange of ideas and information, cooperation in higher education, research, and similar matters. It also helps in the issue of (?receiving treatment) in Czechoslovakia, and more contacts between our research workers in the cultural, art, and other areas. In the economic field there have been some gains, and these are reflected in the memorandum of understanding. Czechoslovakia is an industrial country, and is one of the most advanced countries among the socialist states. It also has a record in our country. Fortunately it has various industries, including machine-tool manufacturing, power stations, and others. We hope to reach some tangible results, and this should be pursued. We think that within the framework of the issues discussed here, which concluded that delegations should to go Czechoslovakia from here and vice versa, we will witness further expansion in our ties with Czechoslovakia. There will be particular expansion in the machine-making industries, (?road construction) and heavy industries. We reached desirable agreements in these fields.

In connection with exports, our colleagues held talks and foundations were prepared for a greater volume of exports. Our companies must show more strength, be more active, and their prices should be competitive to enable them to make use of this opportunity. I have given you a summary of our talks, held in a very friendly climate, and with understanding. As you know, his excellency also met with Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani and discussed very important political issues, which will greatly affect the strengthening of our relations with Czechoslovakia. [end recording]

Joint Communique Issued

LD0102071989 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—A joint communique was released in Tehran and Prague Tuesday night at the conclusion of the three-day visit of the Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec of Czechoslovakia.

The communique said that in the course of constructive talks of Premier Adamec with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi of Iran, held in friendly atmosphere, both sides emphasized importance of common stance towards major international issues.

Iran and Czechoslovakia expressed readiness to further expand political, economic, cultural and scientific relations. To this end, contacts will be continued at high level, added the communique.

In a bid to promote scientific ties an agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation was signed for 1989-1990, it added.

Both sides expressing respect for Charter of the United Nations pledged support for increased activities of the U.N. for improvement of international relations.

Musavi and Adamec stressed that arms race posed a grave danger on peace and international security and called for disarmament.

Both prime ministers strongly condemned deployment of chemical weapons which is in violation of the Geneva protocol of 1925. They also lauded the January Paris chemical warfare conference and called for a total ban of these weapons.

On issue of Lebanon, the two premiers called for unconditional and immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from southern Lebanon and stressed territorial integrity of Lebanon.

On Afghanistan, it praised all-out efforts to bring a political solution to the Afghanistan crisis and called for establishment of an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

On Iraq-Iran war, Premier Adamec praised Iran's move in accepting the U.N. Resolution 598 on ending the war last July and establishment of cease-fire last August. He expressed the hope that the resolution and the four-point plan of the U.N. secretary general will be fully implemented.

Finally as for the Persian Gulf, the communique stressed the need for withdrawal of foreign forces from the region.

Prime Minister Adamec heading a high ranking delegation visited Iran from January 20-31 during which he held talks with Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest and expansion of bilateral relations.

KEYHAN Criticizes Iraqi Stance on Peace Talks

LD3101185889 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said in an article Tuesday that the Iraqi Government is now launching a worldwide publicity campaign for showing itself interested in resuming peace talk with the Islamic Government. It said Iraq has not abandoned its expansionist goals and means to gradually attain those goals by bringing up claims on Iran's land and water territories.

The following is the daily's article.

"During the past two weeks the Iraqi regime has been trying new maneuvers for feigning an interest in resumption of peace talks and implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. Among the devices it has used for suggesting the idea has been the release of ailing and disabled Iranian war prisoners, repeated statements by Iraqi officials on the need for resumption of peace talks, and Iraq's listing of the ban on using her space for international airliners flying to Iran. But it has thus far refused to deal on the subject of stumbling blocks on the way of talks, including its withdrawal to internationally-recognized borders which is anticipated in the four-point plan of the secretary general.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran insists on fullfilment of the Security Council resolution and the four point plan of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in the order of its appearance in the two documents. It considers the implementation of the first paragraph of the resolution as a sign of the good will of the other party in the talks, and a sound background for resumption of talks.

"Iraq is now trying to intimate a false 'overall interest' in resumption of talks in order to portray a plausible face. It sees the likelihood of Iran's insistence on withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders and with that development in mind it aims at singling out the Islamic Republic as the one party responsible for deadlocked talks.

"Political observers say Iraq has cast its strategem on the basis of its experiences in the first, second and third round of talks with Iranian delegates. The Iraqi Government means to exploit the situation for its expansionist goals and for voicing territorial claims as well claims on its sovereignty over parts of the land and water borders between the two countries.

"The process of the three rounds of talks already has proved to the Iraqi Government that it will not gain anything by setting pre-requisites or showing an iron-fist policy and that such devices will only serve to isolate that government in the world forums.

"In the next round of talks, therefore, Iraq will try to accuse Iran of setting pre-conditions to the talks, and will at the same time insist on its indefensible stands without being ready to pay for the price of its obstructionist devices."

'Indifference' to CW Condemned

LD3101215589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] In a statement addressed to the countries participating in the chemical weapons conference in Paris, seven political groups and parties opposed to the Iraqi regime demanded an end to the international forums' silence on the indifference to the Iraqi regime's repeated use of chemical weapons.

According to an IRNA report, the statement strongly criticized a lack of principled confrontation with the Iraqi regime. It asked the world chemical experts and organizations to survey the plight of the Iraqi Kurdistan and Halabjah.

The statement was signed by the political office of the Iraqi Kurdistan Islamic Movement, the Central Council of Iraqi Hizballah, the political office of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, the administrative and political office of the Kurdish Islamic Army, the political office of the Kurdish Patriotic Union, the political office of the Socialist Party, and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mujahidin Movement.

Velayati Sends Message to Greece's Papoulias

LD3101192889 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Athens, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Greece Habibullah Biazar Tuesday met Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and handed him a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati linked with Iran-Iraq peace talks, an Iranian Embassy source told IRNA.

The Iranian message briefed the Greek side on the obstacles and difficulties created by Iraq blocking the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Greece is presently a member of the EC "troika" (the previous, present and the next EC presidency holder), besides Spain and France, which last week launched a Middle East peace initiative after holding talks for the first time with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Madrid.

Velayati's message also informed Papoulias about recent efforts by U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson to revive peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad.

The Greek foreign minister expressed his country's strong desire to strengthen Greek-Iranian ties, and said Greece was ready to render all help it can for the reconstruction of Iran after the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war.

Athens-Tehran ties have progressed at a fast pace after Papoulias' visit to Iran in 1987 and Velayati's reciprocal visit in 1988 to Greece.

Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's planned official trip to Athens last November was postponed due to the sudden illness of Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou.

An Iranian Embassy source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Musavi's visit was expected to take place in the next two months.

Papoulias and Biazar exchanged views on commercial ties between the two countries and discussed possibilities of forming a joint economic commission to promote trade and commercial links.

Another Iranian diplomatic source told IRNA that Greece was "showing great interest in development of relations with Iran."

Tehran Previews Velayati Trip to Islamabad

LD3101140889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], will be going to Islamabad following his successful trip to Syria. On this trip, which takes place in reciprocation of the visit paid to Iran by Pakistani Foreign Minister Ya'qub Khan, our foreign minister will discuss issues pertaining to bilateral ties and international and regional issues, and the Afghanistan issue, in particular.

Since this 3-day trip takes place 2 weeks before the date set for the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, political observers believe that this trip bears great significance. Since the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, the IRI and Pakistan together have given refuge to 5 million Afghans. In this connection, both countries emphasize the honorable return of these refugees to their country. Furthermore, they both believe that the future of Afghanistan must be decided by the Afghan people themselves, and it is the Muslim people of Afghanistan who will determine the fate of their country at the end of nearly a decade of struggle and victory.

In light of the fact that Iran and Pakistan have held common stances with regard to the Afghan issue, the observers consider harmony and coordination between the two countries, aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the Afghan problem, as positive. This issue brings the negotiations on the Afghanistan situation into a new phase, in light of the Soviet foreign minister's upcoming visit to Islamabad.

The most significant topic in the negotiations between Mr Velayati and the Pakistani president and prime minister will concern debate on the two countries' active and coordinating role in connection with the process of talks between the seven- and eight-party coalitions of Afghan mujahidin, talks that could bring ultimate victory to the Afghan people. Observers believe that the implementation of political negotiations presently constitutes an important part of the struggle by the Afghan people and military commanders. [has heard] And this is in light of the fact that the world powers, just before the resolute victory of the mujahidin and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, are expressing doubt concerning any fundamental solution in Afghanistan on the basis of negotiations. This is because they consider it possible to save some of their interests in that country by imposing a military solution and seeking to continue the war and bloodshed.

Therefore, it seems that the dead-end situation in the political negotiations concerning Afghanistan, together with existing means for the superpowers' wheelings and dealings, are the best way to safeguard their interests in Afghanistan. Because of this, the Soviet officials are now trying to safeguard at least some of their interests in Afghanistan by making threats about bringing the withdrawal of their forces to a halt, or about backing the Najibullah regime, support for which reached a climax with trips to Kabul by various Kremlin officials.

Therefore, the efforts of Tehran and Islamabad aimed at an exchange of views and a greater proximity of stances in relation to the Afgahnistan issue bears an importance greater than at any other time.

Majlis Terms RESALAT Budget Data 'Treason'

LD3101141989 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Nearly half the Majlis deputies have protested to a newspaper accusing it of publishing secret figures relating to the upcoming budget and the state of the economy.

Describing the article published last week in the daily RESALAT as an act of "treason" the 137 deputies in a letter called on speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to follow up the case and sue the newspaper.

"Undoubtedly this treacherous act would only harm Islam and Muslims and serve the enemies of the Islamic revolution," the letter said.

It followed a reply from RESALAT's editor Ahmad Tavakoli who denied similar accusations made earlier by deputy prime minister in charge of legal and Majlis affairs Fatollah Mohajerani.

Mohajerani in an article in the daily ETTELAAT last Thursday was particularly concerned by RESALAT's revelation that the government had introduced a "secret amendment" to the budget bill for 1368 (starts March 21).

He also attacked the paper for mentioning the figure for the government's domestic debt.

"A critical study of the government's economic policies-...will certainly be in the interest of the country. But in whose interest would it be to reveal secret documents?" Mohajerani asked.

The deputy prime minister said the enemies of the revolution were trying to prove that the Islamic Republic had reached a deadlock in tackling the economy and RESALAT was aiding such a conspiracy.

But Tavakoli in a lengthy denial printed in ETTELAAT Monday said the charges against RESALAT were unfounded.

"The respected legal deputy of the prime minister must know that writing that the government is engaged in secret activities is not the same as 'revealing secrets'" the RESALAT editor said.

"Mr Mohajerani knows well that the newspapers' job is to discover news and print it."

Tavakoli defended RESALAT's action which he said was only limited to telling its readers that the government had introduced a secret amendment to the budget bill without revealing its contents.

He said such an amendment never appeared during the war and questioned why such a measure was necessary "after the acceptance of the resolution (598) and greater normalcy in the country."

He also said the government's internal borrowing figure was no secret as it had been repeatedly mentioned by deputies in Majlis debates as well as being easily available to the public.

Internal debt was primarily responsible for fueling inflation and the fall in the value of the rial as well as the huge private sector cash flow, Tavakoli, a former labor minister and government spokesman claimed.

On Saturday ETTELAAT in commentary criticized opponents of the government without naming them for "revealing national secrets to enemies as if offering nuts and candy."

Supporters of the RESALAT newspaper mainly oppose the government's economic policy of not allowing greater involvement by the private sector.

Opponents say the so-called RESALAT faction is a blind supporter of the private sector.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Islamic Conference

NC0102070889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The Seventh Conference on Islamic Thought ended its works in Tehran last night with a speech by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his speech, the Majlis speaker described the need for messages to be correct as the first pillar of Islamic propaganda and said: If messages are devoid of content, they cannot have a serious impact even if they are presented in a good way. Describing suitable tools for and correct methods of propaganda as the second and third pillars of propaganda, respectively, he said: If we want to propagandize in a good way, then we should use the best means, and in this we should think more of our youth and strive to train talented individuals.

Pointing to the fact that, without a searching interpretation of the divine law, which should be coordinated with the needs of mankind, Islam cannot be attractive, he said: If our objective is for the peoples of the world to make the teachings of Islam their way of life, then we should have a program of Islam for each part of the world, and this can be achieved only through strenuous efforts.

At the end of his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered questions from participants in the Conference on Islamic Thought. Asked whether it is probable that Iraq will ignore the cease-fire regulations, he said: This probability exists, but it is not a strong one because Iraq is not the main decision maker and we will not be the side to start. We will not allow our territory to remain in the hands of Iraq. If Iraq does not leave our territory, our patience may run out.

Asked whether Iran will participate in this year's hajj, he said: We continue to believe that the hajj should be transformed from a customary and lifeless worship into an active and lively complex of the Islamic world which the Muslims can use. This will be to the benefit of the Saudis and of the world of Islam.

The participants in the conference passed a resolution at its conclusion.

Mines Minister Details Industrial Projects

LD3001101489 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—134 industrial projects with a budget of 1,400 billion rials (dlrs. 20 billions) are currently underway in various parts of the country, said Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi in a press conference here Sunday.

Commenting on other projects of the ministry he said expansion of the Esfahan steel mill, Mobarakeyeh steel complex, Sar Chashmeh copper complex and Ahvaz Kavian rolling mill are among the ministry's immediate plans.

According to Ayatollahi completion of another 37 projects, worth 12 billion rials (dlrs. 1.7 billion) will enable Iran to save some dlrs. 100 million in foreign exchange annually.

An additional dlrs. 400 million would be saved annually when the major prosphate exploration project is completed, he added.

The minister further told reporters that Iran exported a total of 304,757 tons of minerals in the first nine months of the current Iranian year (March 21, - December 21, 1988), down by 2.88 per cent in terms of weight compared to same period last year. However, he added, in terms of value the exports showed an increase of 50 per cent.

A number of valuable minerals including ferrous oxide, lead, zinc, chromite and various copper products constitute the country's main export items.

According to Ayatollahi at present there are 800 active mines in Iran.

473 Prisoners Pardoned on Revolution Anniversary

LD0102101689 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—423 prisoners in five provincial cities have been pardoned in the past two days on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Islamic revolution and the triumphant return of Imam Khomeyni to Tehran from exile.

Meanwhile, prison terms of another 50 prisoners were commuted.

Amnesty for more prisoners is expected in the revolution anniversary.

Pakistan

Security Tightened as 2 Die in Karachi Riots

BK0102143289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 1 (AFP)—Troops tightened security as a man was killed and three people injured Wednesday [1 February] raising to two the death toll in two days of ethnic clashes in Karachi, local authorities said.

Urdu-speaking Muhajirs, immigrants from India, fought a pitched street battle with Pathans from the north in the Nazimabad area of the southern Pakistan city after Muhajirs returned from the burial of a schoolboy killed in a clash Tuesday, they said.

Army troops were called in early Wednesday and imposed a virtual curfew on the area following Wednesday's clash that left one person dead and three injured.

Clashes broke out Tuesday between students of the two ethnic groups over the hanging of a portrait of a Muhajir leader in a classroom at their school.

A student injured in the clash died in hospital late Tuesday, sparking more violence as people took to the streets and stoned passing cars as news of his death spread.

Shops were closed Wednesday and there was little traffic on the streets, officials said.

Curfew Imposed in Nazimabad

BK0102154089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] A curfew was imposed in some parts of Nazimabad today following incidents of violence in (Papaur Shahr) area. The situation in the area was tense after an incident in which one person was stabbed last night. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital this morning. One more person died in a firing incident today. Firing was also reported by an unidentified crowd, but no one was injured in the incident. Personnel of law enforcement agencies are patrolling the area and the situation there is reported to be peaceful.

Students Urged To Cooperate

BK0102164289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] An official spokesman in Karachi has regretted that for the last week anti-social elements have been spoiling the atmosphere in educational institutions. The spokesman said now that a representative government has come into power and freedom has been given to students in their academic and extracurricular activities the government would also like them to pay full attention to their studies. The spokesman advised students to cooperate with the government in promoting unity and cohesion so that the government could solve all genuine problems with their cooperation.

'Mysterious' Afghan Plane Crashes in NWFP

BK0102111889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1 (AFP)—A mysterious Afghan plane believed to be loaded with arms and ammunition crashed in Pakistan late Tuesday [31 January] and there was no report of any survivor, newspapers here said Wednesday.

According to the reports an unidentified Afghan plane entered Pakistani air space around 11 p.m. (1800 GMT) Tuesday and circled several times over Bannu Airport in the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan.

According to eyewitnesses the plane, believed to be a military aircraft, then headed towards nearby Dera Ismail Khan Airport. It crashed at Ghambeela, 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Bannu, apparently after running out of fuel, they said.

A large explosion when the plane crashed was followed by secondary explosions for a considerable time. Press reports quoting local people said there was no evidence as yet that the plane was hit by Pakistani air or ground forces.

No official comment was immediately available.

Newspapers said residents of the area believed the plane was transporting arms and ammunition for the beleaguered Afghan troops in the eastern part of the country, where rebel mujahidin are besieging several districts, including the Jalalabad garrison city.

It was not immediately known how many people were aboard or if there were any survivors. One report said a pilot's jacket and some Afghan currency notes besides documents in the Farsi [as received] language were recovered from the site of the crash.

Sources in the area said the plane had probably strayed into Pakistan and crashed while attempting to land at Bannu Airport. An attempted defection to Pakistan was also not ruled out.

Several Afghan jets and helicopters have landed at Pakistani airports in the past nine years and the authorities usually do not deny asylum to defectors.